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It is of such an age that Dr. Arnold has remarked the deep interest arising not only from the germs of the changes it comprises, but from the anxiety with which we scrutinize its records for evidences of a consciousness of what was

of the middle ages was sounding, what were the secret impressions of its auditors?—were they prescient of the future, or were they vacant from insensibility? If we raise the scurf of ordinary fact, and discern the inner spiritual symptoms which constituted either their life or lethargy, we become cognizant of that which it concerns us to know above all the narratives which are commonly put before us. He who helps us to this knowledge is a true historian, for he dwells in the very orbit of the life he circumscribes, and reads its thoughts while he translates its language. As he renders freely the spirit of his originals, the consciousness of his own epoch is at hand to suggest comparisons, assign motives, group evidences, and define relations; and as he brings us face to face with a luminous image, we can apprehend it instinctively by its light and our own.

We can feel no surprise from the rarity of the endowments required for this function, if the present writer has failed to indicate the distinctive spirit which underlies the facts he has narrated. Nor can we assume that if it be his purpose to extend his 'History' at some future day he will repair the omission, for the reason that he shows a misapprehension of the terms on which his vocation would be most worthily exercised. It was long since remarked that it is not enough to take a single epoch and view it as an independent theme, but we must mark its relation to the course of human progress before we are in a position to estimate its characteristics; and although it may seem a truism to repeat that events should be regarded in the light of their surrounding circumstances, and of the place which these occupy in the world's history, yet there is no condition more frequently neglected, and none of which the neglect involves such misconception. The present writer, from his failing to see the proportions of his subject to the great historic platform, is continually trespassing. He imports the views, feelings, and sentiments of the present day into the judgment which he passes on characters and actions to which, as we shall see, they are utterly inapplicable. instance, whenever he can find occasion to inveigh against the horrors of war, he points his remarks with signal injustice to the personages who were prominent in a warlike age. Thus he speaks of the invasion of France by Henry V. (p. 106), as "a design conceived in the mere lust of aggrandizement and plunder. varnished over with no colour of right, and outraging every feeling, as well of ordinary morality as of public justice." The state of France was such, that if it failed to excite the compassion of Henry, we are to infer that he was destitute of "ordinary humanity," or that he was "the most hard-hearted and the most sordid of assailants" (pp. 87, 88). The few pence which were given to the women and children who were driven out of Harfleur are tossed back to him as "an insulting mockery" (p. 111), while those historians who have overlauded his exploits are "prone to corrupt the rulers of the world with unreflecting and even unprincipled panegyrie" (p. 87). Now these extracts are by no means of an exceptional character, but the refrain of the book is set in this key, and so far we do not hesitate to declare it to be false and ex-aggerated. Putting aside for a moment the mistaken philosophy, and admitting that history may be used as a vehicle for inculcating ethics of a modern date, such as the forbearthen impending. At a time when the knell ance and philanthropy of the nineteenth cen-

tury, we demur by the way to its being so used inveterately. If Mr. Alison, for instance, who is apt to slobber occasionally, were to take us aside at the close of every great battle, and read moral lessons from the items of the carnage, we should probably fall asleep in the middle of the campaign. At all events, the Peace Congress in some future session at Creckelpit or Husterloh would have an opportunity of remodelling Europe before we had reached even to the Congress of Vienna. We should bear in mind that gentle sages like Blair and Watts wrote sermons and poems on the gambols of young lambs, and the propensities of bears and lions; or, if they ventured into the domain of history at all, it was to produce dialogues on the model of 'Alexander and the Robber.' In fact, we should never be forgetful that history is allowed to teach, not to torture, us by examples. But when it goes far beyond this, and is permitted to make examples of those who are by no means deserving this distinction, it then becomes the critic's duty to pluck the Muse of History by the sleeve. In what way, we venture to ask the good matron, was Harry the Fifth more blameable than his contemporaries? He acted according to the prevailing sentiment—the ideal of his age—if he did not rise above it. At a time when Europe universally assented to the use of war for acquiring dominion-at a time in which, philosophically speaking, we must even allow that war was necessary to ascertain the limits of nations and empires, we find him foremost in the estimation of men for carrying on war strenuously and successfully. The rationale is this-it was the industry of his age which employed the claims of kings as capital, and the muscular capacities of their subjects as labour, and which furnished wages to the one in ransom and plunder, and profit to the other in provinces and their revenues. Considered only as a game which kings and nobles played at, it was a game which the church encouraged, and the Commons loved to witness. The latter despised and dethroned Henry the Sixth for losing involuntarily the acquisitions of war. When, therefore, abstinence from war is required from a prince of youthful habits, a patriot and a man of business, as business was then transacted, we ought to ask ourselves what possible facilities he had for adopting an opposite course of action. If he had none of the means and appliances of modern virtue, our censure is unjust. To divest him of 'ordinary humanity,' meaning the humanity of his age, to describe him as 'hard-hearted and sordid,' as compared with his contemporaries, is simply untrue, and irreconcilable even with the facts which the writer himself has not forgotten to mention. There is Walsingham's story of his treatment of the Lollard, which the writer has copied on p. 41, and the refusal of the offer of the Archbishop of Bourges (p. 103), to meet both imputations. He was demonstrably as good, if not superior to his compeers. If he was not quite so considerate in war as the Duke, and only a little less sanguinary than Napoleon, we may he sitate in trying him by a jury of this age, while we could never have convicted him by one of his own. In accepting an abstract standard of morality, to which we have only by degrees approximated through the tears and triumphs of some eighteen centuries, we should be careful to proclaim its regulating canon, that for historic purposes we must apply it by gradations—to every age its proper measure, and to each man of it his fair responsibility.

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At the same time, although the present writer, as we see, has infringed this funda-mental principle of his vocation, we should not, however, be doing him justice if we hesitated to admit the merit of his performance. Notwithstanding his inability to see the proportions of his theme to general history, he has marked with very just discrimination, within the limits of the field he has surveyed, the due proportion of one fact to another. We know of no presentment of the age, or rather of the war which was its important feature, which gives us half so clear a view of the hostile forces which were active in the contest. This view may be ascribed to the assiduous zeal with which he has collated all the authorities, especially availing himself of the French chroniclers, and comparing the statements on one side with those of its antagonist. By this means we obtain a full intelligence of the real source of our successes and reverses, and perceive, however humiliating it may prove to the prejudices of an archæological patriotism, that our maintenance of the war, under any circumstances, was principally, if not exclusively, due to the inveterate rivalries of France and Burgundy. Unless the Dauphin and the Duke had quarrelled, in all probability Henry's armament would never have re-treated victoriously to Calais. The murder of Jean sans peur at Montereau contributed far more than the overthrow at Agincourt to retain the English on the soil of France. On the other hand, it was less the Maid of Orleans than the reconciliation of France with the son of the murdered Duke at Arras, which effected their expulsion from all Henry's acquisitions. For its important bearing on the fortunes of the war, we extract the description of the tragedy at Montereau:-

"Whether the reconcilement of the Dauphin and the Burgundian had from the first been insincere, or that, as oftentimes happens, their followers, especially the favourites, retained their former ani-mosities, or that some jealousy of the more able and eminent individual, heightened probably by his not having found it easy to lay aside the habit of command, arose in the mind of the inferior party, certain it is that some differences were perceivable soon after the treaty of Melun, and seemed likely enough to obstruct the complete execution of its provisions. A meeting of the two chiefs was strongly recommended by the Dauphin's counsellors, upon the plausible pretext of improving their amicable dispositions, and concerting measures against the English. He was then at Montereau, on the junction of the Yonne and Seine, with Jean Louvet, President of Provence, and Tanneguy du Chastel, his chief advisers, as we have seen; and he had a large army with him also. It was proposed that the Burgundian should repair thither, and occupy the castle, which was made ready for his reception; but he was extremely unwilling to quit Troyes, and proposed that the Dauphin should rather go there, to visit the King and Queen. This correspondence was carried on by Tanneguy. He had been one of the Dauphin's most zealous adherents, and hitherto the implacable enemy of the Duke. With him, nevertheless, he found means to prevail so far that he set out attended by a few hundred men, and arrived at Bray-sur-Seine. Here his misgivings returned, and he would proceed no farther. It happened unfortunately for him that his chief counsellor, the Bishop of Langres, had a brother in the Dauphin's service, the Bishop of Valence, who was despatched to make his relative join in the general solicitation; but without female influence the united efforts of the two prelates would probably have failed. Nor was this wanting. Madame de Giac, whose husband was one of the Duke's counsellors, enjoyed in a peculiar manner his favour. She had been a zealous promoter of the treaty at Melun, and now exerting her power-

ful influence to promote the desired interview, she succeeded in lulling all suspicions. A Jew, one of the Burgundian's retainers, earnestly besought him not to go, predicting that if he went he never would return; but this warning was disregarded, and he rode on with his suite. When he came near to Montereau, he was met by three of his adherents who had left the place to warn him that there were barriers erected on the spot appointed for the conference, and that their position gave the Dauphin's party a manifest advantage. A council was now held, and a circumstance so pregnant with suspicion created a great division of opinion, some strongly dissuading the step, others declaring in favour of it, on the conviction that any treachery was wholly impossible. To the latter class the lady gave her support, and their sentiments were in harmony with the undaunted nature of the man who shrunk from the imputation of holding back through fear-probably, too, from the responsibility sure to be cast upon him of having revived the quarrel so lately appeased. Thus he went forward, and took possession of his apartments in the castle, with a moderate body-guard, posting the rest of his men at the

gate leading to the town. "He had not arrived many minutes when Tanneguy du Chastel came to say that the Dauphin expected him; and he walked, accompanied by ten only of his suite, towards the bridge, upon which an enclosure, formed by a double barrier, was erected as the place of meeting. Arrived at the first barrier, he was met by some of the Dauphin's people sent to hasten his approach, by telling him their lord was kept waiting. Again he had misgivings, as well he might, if all these things are correctly represented; and he asked his attendants if they thought him safe. They said they were willing to run the same risk, and felt it to be nothing. He bade them keep close by him; he entered the first barrier. Again he was met by messengers who begged him to make haste, for the Dauphin was waiting. 'I am going to him,' said he, and with his suite entered the second barrier, which was immediately closed and locked by the sentinels. Here he met Tanneguy, and probably from a lurking suspicion and the consequent wish to make treachery more difficult, placing his hand on the man's shoulder he said, 'Here is he in whom I put my trust.' Passing on he came near the Dauphin, whom he found outside the barrier on his own side, and leaning on it, completely armed. The Duke dropped on one knee, respectfully saluting him, but he only met reproaches in bitter terms, charging him with neither withdrawing his garrisons, nor attacking the English according to the treaty. He was still on one knee, when Loire, an Armagnac knight, tauntingly bade him rise from a posture unbecoming so great a lord. The Duke saw now that he was betrayed, and moved his hand to his sword, which had got entangled behind 'What!' cried Loire, 'do you draw in the Dauphin's presence?' Tanneguy now advanced, gave the signal to his accomplices by exclaiming, 'It is the time!' and struck the Duke so violently in the face with his battle-axe that he was felled down, and part of his chin was cut off. He started on his legs, but before he could draw his sword the assassins despatched him, and repeated their blows after he was dead. Barnard de Navailles attempted to resist, and wrested the dagger from the hand of the Viscount de Narbonne, who had been set to watch him; but he was immediately killed by the rest. Of the other Burgundians who had followed their lord to the bridge, three were wounded in attempting to resist, one escaped, and the rest were made prisoners. The Dauphin is said to have looked on while this bloody scene was enacted as one much alarmed; and while the scuffle yet continued, he was conducted to his lodgings by the President Louvet and the rest of his counsellors.

"Alarmed in truth he well might be; for never was a deed perpetrated the absolute folly of which, at least equal to its guilt, was so certain to bring condign punishment upon its contrivers, always supposing they were personages who had an interest in the safety of their country. Nor is this a judgment pronounced after the event. No one

could possibly doubt that the murder of the Bur gundian at once placed an insuperable bar in the way of reconcilement between the two parties which divided France. No one could deny that the distractions thus inevitably continued must speedily throw the State into the hands of the common enemy, and whichever of the two factions he chose to join. That the cutting off the power. ful leader of the Bourguignons should either destroy them, or force them, for want of a head, to so knowledge the dominion of their chief's assassing was a supposition so contrary to all experience human nature as to be wholly absurd, even if the fact were not well known that the heir of his name and his dominions had already distinguished himself and proved his possessing a capacity for command That he should allow any romantic sense of duty towards the State to master the natural feelings of revenge against his father's murderers was as little to be expected; and, indeed, in those times it is very likely that the approval of the world would rathe have been withheld from a patriotic than from a vindictive course of action. Hence all men at once perceived what the few patriots then to be found in France deplored, the inevitable ruin of the country, the destruction of the Armagnacs by de feat, of the Bourguignons by treason, while the deplorable catastrophe that impended was not likely even to benefit permanently the party certain to gain by it in the first instance; for in the end England, next after France, was sure to be the greatest sufferer."

Here we must conclude for the present Having expressed a view of the writer's general treatment of his subject, we reserve its details for another opportunity.

Darien; or, the Merchant Prince. A Hutorical Romance. By Eliot Warburton Colburn and Co.

To the student in the German school of metaphysics, where metaphysical subtlety and speculation respecting the identity, or at least the concurrence of thought and being is a lowed wide latitude, this work cannot fail to be interesting. For, if we assume—as, alas there is too much reason to fear we mustthat its author has been overtaken in the midst of life by a terrible and fatal catatrophe, it is impossible to read the eloquent pages of this stirring romance, fertile in horrors, without being impressed by the numerous passages singularly in harmony with the dark fate which plunged so many of Mr. Warbuton's fellow-passengers into eternity on that awful night whose tragedy has carried sorrow and wailing through the land.

Life is, in few instances, and at rare intervals, the diapason of a heavenly melodymore frequently is it a fierce jar of disruptions, convulsions, and dark foreshadowings which often, do what we will, it is impossible to disregard entirely. It is, however, to be borne in mind that the present work has it timate connexion with the scenes amids which Mr. Warburton purposed spending much of his time. He had been deputed by the Atlantic and Pacific Junction Company to visit the tribes of Indians who inhabit the Isthmus of Darien, and to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the climate, to pography, and resources of their country and, if possible, coming to an amicable to derstanding with them. His mind we doubtless full of his high and philanthrops mission when he penned the present romane and it is quite possible that dark shadows such as chequer his pages, had substantia though not enduring existence amidst the hopes with which he contemplated the future The period selected by Mr. Warburton for

his tale was one of great maritime excitement. The cruelties long practised by the Spaniards in the West Indies and surrounding seas were visited by terrible retribution. The Buccaneers, or 'brethren of the sea,' as they styled themselves, became Spain's most formidable enemies. Natives of all countries, they regarded every colony as a fair field for predatory warfare. Their ships were well armed, strong, and swift; they were amphibious in martial exploits, enterprising on the land, skilful on the sea, and desperately daring everywhere. For they combined all the cunning of the Indian with the strength and hardihood of the most manful European races, and were at once insatiably avaricious and remorselessly cruel.

Take the following as a specimen:—The narrator was boatswain's mate in the Black Bess, a notorious buccaneering craft, with a crew half English and half French; and it is added, "if hell's a waur place than that same ship, the deil maun hae a sair berth o't:"—

"Our surgeon was a Frenchman, I believe; if he was ever born naturally at all, for never a man had less o' woman in him. He was an awfu' bein', and the men were mair afear'd o' his curings than o' a' the enemy's wounds. He wad examine a puir fellow's banes and quivering flesh as if it was a pretty pictur', and no leevin' nature; and yet na man dare question him. One day we tuk a Spaniard, and, as we thought, a' her men had walked the plank. The medicine kist, wi' ither spulzie, fell to the surgeon's share; but when it was opened, he found nought withinside save a miserable mulatto that had hidden himself there. Well, he was dootless sair vexed, but he only laughed a horrid laugh, and said to the tremblin' creetur, 'Ye needna fear, friend; ye're fa'en into gude hands. I'll na kill ye, I'll only operate on ye.' The puir soul thought o' naething but the saved life, and fell at his knees, thanking him wi' tears o' gratitude. That day the surgeon let him alane, for he had wark eneuch wi' our ain wounded; and sae it was the next day. But at last, he wanted amusement, and sae he just cut off the mulatto's right leg, to try some new experiment. Weel, he war a cleever chiel, wi' a' his devilry; and he soon made his patient sound agin. But the voyage was a lang and weary ane; so, to try some ither experiment, he cut off the ither leg o' the cretur. I winna tell ye how the mulatto looked, nor what he said; but we aboord the ship war nae chickins, I promise ye, and yet we were terrified at what used to pass atween them twa; ane wi' the tongue, and the ither wi' the knife. I dinna rightly ken a' the ways that the surgeon had o' taking his diversion at intervals, for we a' got as far out o' the way as we could whenever he went nigh the mulatto's berth. But, when we were near Tortuga, on our return frae a long cruise, the mulatto was naething but a mere trunk only; arms and legs a' gane, and yet wi' devilish art and cruel skill he was still kepit alive.

"At last it happened as we were cruising off the Caxones, that the captain had a tulzie wi' the surgeon; the haill crew was lang sick o' him, and when the captain proposed that he sud be marooned on yon islan', every man in the ship shouted for joy; a score o' hands hasted to hoist out the boat. Even the mulatto body tried to cheer, and the surgeon heard it, and smiled on him ance mair.

"We won't part, at all events. By the laws of our brotherhood, I have a right to my own property, Captain Morgan,' he said; 'and I claim this my prisoner and patient, with my chest.'

"Sandy, that surgeon was a bauld man! He was quite willin' to go to that lanely islan' laded wi' the curses o' the crew, and only that puir ruined body to keep him company. This deil incarnate then went below, and pretended to pack up instruments and papers, and things in his kist, but I watched him closely, and know that there was a sight o' gowd and precious stanes there; besides biscuits, and brandy, and fish-hooks, with ammunition and pistols; and for all they gi'ed him but five

minits for the job, he packed his kist as cannily as though he had ta'en a month to do it. Weel—we landed him and his kist, and though we tried hard agen it, we were forced to land his mulatto creetur' too:—for, you see, if we broke one part o' the brotherhood's rules, there wad be na hope for the rest. So we lifted the kist up agen the lonely cedar on the island, and set the mulatto doon hard by.

"I dinna like, to this day, to think o' the last look he lookit at us, as we gaed awa'. Wad ye think it? I kissed the puir pale laddie (as I couldna shak him by the hand), and I was tempted to put my knife intil him for mercy, but I daured na; I feared that surgeon deil, sitting there on his kist, looking round that lanely isle, independent o' us a', and—as we thought—of doom itself. We hurried to get away. I was the last man leaving the land. I dinna ken how it was, but, just as tho' the divelish surgeon had the ordering o't—for all he could not see us where we sat—the whilst I was casting off the painter, the boat capsized in the surf; the water was all whiskit into foam; the sharks were thick as herrins; my three shipmates went down, and I never saw them mair. Oh! it was terrible to be left, coming on nicht, upon that island, with the fearfu' surgeon and his prey. But I was fascinated to keep them in sight. I crept along the sand, and under the shade of the mangroves, inch by inch, until I got a better view o' him. There he was, fancying we were a' awa'; for he was thinking o' himsel' alane, and never lookit after the boat. He had emptied the chest, and was sorting its contents-biscuits, powder, gold pieces, doctor's tools, jewels and pearls by handfuls, pistols and bookssic a confusion! He had, afore this, digged a hole, well nigh as deep as himsel', in the saft sand, and into this he tossed all the gold and precious stanes, leaving just room aneuch for a body, and a wee bit sand to lay o'er it. He then sat him down to enjoy himsel' wi' a biscuit and a drap o' brandy; then, lighting his pipe, he turned his uncanny een on the mulatto. 'I've nearly done wi' ye,' that look seemed to say; 'but ye maun serve me ane gude turn mair. I'll finish you here, and you'll jist haunt this spot till I can come back for what's in it, at my leisure.' The mulatto did not look daunted as those terrible een keeked into his face; the bitterness of death was passed wi' him, nae doot; nor yet when the surgeon lifted him (he was light eneuch!) upon the sand near to the treasure. The creatur weel kenned for why he was put there. 'Deevil!' he moaned out, faintly and defiantly, 'you've but a short time longer to torment me; I hear the death-rattle coming now.'

"The surgeon bent down his ear close by the dying man. I saw the fire o' vengeance flash into his glazing een; his dismembered body bent for a moment, like a fish springing fra the ground; I heard a husky noise. The surgeon strove to loup an' get himsel' on his feet, but the mulatto was fast to him, and lifted wi' him. He had seized him by the thrapple wi' his teeth, and when the surgeon tried to pu' him awa', he only tore his ain flesh. I couldna hae gaed up to them if I would. I buried my face in my hands and ran away. But a dreadful sound was in my ears, lang lang after those who made it were still eneuch."

We have alluded to the prophetic nature of many portions of this book. At the threshold of the story we are made spectators of a fearful extinction of life by fire; and here is an ocean scene grandly told:—

"A vast dark curtain of clouds rose slowly up the northern sky, and soon, but imperceptibly, wrapped the ocean in a double night. Still, the drunken freebooters slept on; it might have seemed a ship of death, with a black and universal pall spread over it. The white sails towered up into the darkness like gigantic ghosts, and ever and anon small tongues of lambent flame would hover, spirit-like, over the mast-head. The sea began to heave and swell portentously, with a long and measured motion, that lulled the sleepers into a yet deeper slumber, and all the while a strong current bore the ship swiftly and helplessly along, as in a dream. "Suddenly, the wild storm of the Tropics awoke

and burst upon the world of waters with terrific uproar. Thunder shook the heavens with prolonged roar, and sheets of lightning wrapt the gleaming sea in one wide flame: the waves were roused instantly to fury; but, ever as they rose, their crests were whirled away by the tornado, and scattered into clouds of suray.

"The best prepared ship could scarcely have endured that fierce and sudden storm:—but the brigantine had every sail set to the previous gentle breeze, and every hand that should have helped her was relaxed in sleep. Instantly, as the hurricane assailed her, she was struck down on her beam-ends: the sea rolled over her in all its force: the decks had been strewn with the drunken revellers, who were now helplessly drowned as they lay: even the watch were only wakened by the wave that carried them away into the raging waters. Almost instantly all was over; and but two living creatures interrupted the sublime lone-liness of the stormy see

liness of the stormy sea. "Alvarez, like the rest of the ship's crew, had been asleep; his dreams haunted by the loud brutal songs and impious jests of the pirates. Suddenly, in his dream, it seemed to him as if those shouts of revelry were changed to shrieks, and at the same moment that he had become, he knew not how, involved in their orgies. He seemed to reel and stagger, and the bowl of wine that they had been sitting round, seemed to gush up like a great fountain, and pour down upon him and all the revellers, washing them away in its red torrents: startled by the sudden sense of drowning, he awoke to find himself in the angry sea, with wreck and ruin and destruction all around. Too paralyzed to swim, he almost abandoned himself to death; but at the same moment he felt himself seized by a vigorous grasp, and dragged through the seething waters, within reach of a floating spar. There, clinging desperately, but still blinded and halfsmothered by the waves, he felt gradually propelled onwards, until a comparative lull allowed him to look round. He was under the lee of the wrecked ship, whose masts had been snapped asunder like twigs, and were floating alongside her in a confused and tangled mass. With incredible vigour and address, the Indian steered the spar between the ship's hull and her floating masts, and then, having made it fast to the former, he relaxed his efforts and looked round him with an air of triumph. To him the water was as natural an element as the land; to him those who had perished were so many enemies destroyed: his preserver alone remained alive, but the order of obligation was reversed; he was now the patronthe deliverer of his deliverer; -and that proud consciousness swelled his broad breast with manly triumph. And yet all this time he and Alvarez were holding on for their lives under the lee of the wreck, while the storm still shrieked over and around them. The waves, risen to mountain height, now threaten to roll the sheltering hull right over, and now to jam them against the mass of tangled masts and rigging which floated only a few spars to leeward. Suddenly, some shrouds from above parted, and the ship righted so violently, as to snap the line that held their spar, and the next moment they were drifted to the timbers that formed a sort of rude and struggling raft. But now Alvarez had recovered his strength and presence of mind, and having divested himself of his cumbrous clothes, he made almost as good use of his opportunities as the Indian. They soon struggled along the shrouds that still attached the floating spars to the ship's lee-chains, and then they found themselves on board and sole masters of the ship. Dismembered of her spars, and buoyant as a cork, she rode the waves gallantly, and the sea-beaten survivors felt themselves in comparative

"Daylight soon burst forth from the stormy east with tropical suddenness, and Alvarez could not, in all his misery, but admire the splendour of the scene. The tornado was already subsiding, and the waves assumed a purple hue, here and there dashed in with gold colour from the dawning sunshine, and flecked with the silvery foam that still

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sparkled on each breaking wave. Ten thousand scattered clouds, like spirits of the storm, bespread the blue field of sky with their broken battalions in tumultuous but gorgeous confusion, as they fled away before the dawn.

One of the survivors is the Merchant Prince, a native of Spain, who, wronged by a series of cruel injuries, forsakes his country, and establishes a magnificent home in the New World. The following is a brilliant picture of its enchantments:-

"The palacio of the Merchant Prince was arraved with all that the brilliance of a cultivated oriental imagination could dictate to unbounded and unstinted wealth. The sun was not to look upon the festival, for who could dare to encounter aught but labour under his tyrant reign within the tropics? But evening came, with all the magnificence of the starry sky that is only displayed in that glowing climate. Then care and business go

to rest, and pleasure wakes. "The palacio was but one story high, but it was proportionably widely spread. From the garden entrance an alameda, or avenue of stately trees, led to a wide circular space, in the centre of which a fountain scattered its vanishing diamonds over a border of fragrant flowers. A coloured awning, extended from tree to tree, made one vast aisle of the whole avenue; and coloured lamps, not confusedly scattered, but each assembled in masses of kindred colour, gave every variety of changing hues, while millions of fire-flies glanced to and fro, as if ministering to the more stationary lights. From the alameda ran quiet passages, scarcely lighted, or left altogether to the moon: some of these led out upon the open garden, some into small kiosks, paved with porcelain. Gigantic slaves, magnificently dressed, carried about vases of iced sherbet and snow, sweetened with every delicate flavour, from the perishable mangosteen to the familiar vanilla. Wines from every precious grape in Europe presented themselves on rustic tables. Music, in subdued tones, was heard, now here, now there; but never in the more shadowy places, where many guests reclined on Persian carpets, reposing their senses to enable them to take fresh draughts of delight. Within the palacio, no one could recognise its former state. Some of . the spacious apartments were converted into bowers of beautiful flowering plants, woven together with Indian art. Some rooms were hung with rich crimson draperies, and lighted with warm coloured lamps, whose glow made the palest cheek look lovelier than the roses that festooned the marble pillars. Other apartments, pervaded with a greenish lustre, suited those whose thoughts were pensively inclined. Beyond these, a vast saloon was draperied with shadowy silks of uncertain hue, set off with the plumage of the flamingo and the tulcan, which seemed to nestle in its folds. Yet farther on, in a perfect blaze of light, was the banquetting hall, open all round to the evening breeze, and supported only on cedar pillars, and domed with invisible gauze. Beneath it, gold and silver gleamed and glowed in every conceivable form over a great circular table, covered with snow-white porcelain instead of damask; and in the midst of it, among fruits and flowers, a fountain of iced and perfumed water flashed and sparkled in the gold-reflected light. Meats, the most delicate. set off by the most refined art, and wines of all sorts, from the rich vines of Shiraz to the native 'pulque,' were abundantly spread and constantly renewed. All round, outside the ban-quetting-hall, the full moon shone down through tall cedar and palmetto trees, affording a deeply striking contrast to the splendid glare and glow within. All along, through the suite of various apartments, music from no visible lip or instrument floated on the fragrant air, and afforded, as it might be, an accompaniment to the thought that each scene inspired, from soft sentimental flutebreathings, to the loud fanfaronnade of shawms and kettle-drums and trumpets. Yet so vast was the palace, that neither sight nor sound of one description interfered with the harmony of all."

Of course, in a romance bristling with startling events, prosperity like this is not permanent, and the hero is soon plunged into the agonies of love, and maddening excitement by land and sea. But Mr. Warburton grapples with more than one hero, and crowds his canvas with personages who keep the attention of the reader sustained to the close of the third volume. We will not mar the tale by revealing any of the love scenes, which are drawn by a master's hand. They will, if we mistake not, moisten the eye of many a fair reader, for they are at once truthful and affecting.

We prefer filling our waning space from less romantic but not less interesting sources. The memorable Scottish expedition to Darien forms a prominent feature in the romance, and constitutes one of the most exciting portions of his work. Was his projected voyage in his thoughts when he wrote thus?-

"There is no departure so impressive as that by sea. Those whose hands we have but now grasped fervently in ours,-those whose last faltering words are still in our ear,-are now with us-now fading away in distance; gradually becoming invisible -absorbed into the sea and sky-gone, like those who die; except that even the very form we have long loved for the sake of the spirit within, is likewise gone.

"When a ship founders at sea, the water forms a distracted vortex for a few minutes, and the waves are tossed about unnaturally; but they gradually subside, until the surface of ocean is as calm over the buried wreck as over the smoothest sand that ever formed a drowned seaman's pillow."

And to strengthen these melancholy words he quotes Landon's ominous lines :-

"The distant coronach I hear, And a moan across the wave;
When the bark sweeps forth, and song and cheer
Salute the parting brave."

The interview of Paterson, the well-known organiser and leader of the expedition, is thus

described :-

"The priest of the people prophesied that he was come on a mission of great prosperity to Darien, and favourable report from every mouth heralded his approach to the sovereign. Towards the evening of the second day's journey from St. Andrew's he approached a forest which resounded with wild but pleasant music. On entering one of its many avenues, they beheld a numerous group of musicians, playing on reeds, and attended by a large party of people, who from time to time joined the music in 'a chorus of loud humming.' As soon as the ambassadors approached them the musicians turned towards the hills, and changed their march into a complicated dance, which continued until they crossed a small savannah and approached a lofty isolated grove, beneath which they learned that the king was seated. Then the male musicians ceased dancing and recommenced their melodies; a group of beautiful women at the same time bounded forth from the covert of the woods; their graceful forms wore scarcely any concealment, but they glittered with golden ornaments, and their heads were wreathed with garlands of flowers which they cast at the feet of the white men, and then proceeded, dancing before them, towards the king.

"The swarthy potentate was at length discovered, seated on a characteristic throne of mahogany logs, which were covered partially with Spanish crimson cloth. He wore 'a diadem of gold, ten inches high,' and a light cotton robe alone enveloped his tall and manly person. Not only ear-rings, but a nose-ring were added to his other ornaments; and when pleased, he twirled the latter about 'as white men sometimes twirl their moustaches.' Courtiers were not wanting to this rustic monarch's state: men of noble figure, whose stature was increased by gleaming diadems

the ambassadors approached the royal presence, the musicians and the female dancers formed a semicircle behind them, and so the levee began,

"The King of Darien received the Scots very graciously, and his eyes alone confessed any undignified pleasure as he received their precious gifts. These having been presented and accepted, Pater.

son made his speech.

"We are come,' said he, 'from the most distant quarter of the globe to greet you, O king! We are come to you as friendly visitors, not as invaders. We offer to purchase your good-will and welcome towards our nation, together with such land as we require for our sustenance. In return. we will advance your greatness, enrich your people with honest traffic from our European islands, and defend you from the fear of all your enemies.'

"The king received this address with a smile of welcome, and twirled his nose-ring in a manner that made glad the hearts of all his courtiers. The attendant priests also looked graciously on the white heretics, who had not neglected to afford them tithes of glass beads and other precious things. But that which completed the prosperity of the reception in the eyes of the pawarrees or priests, and afforded the most favourable omen that Darien religion could receive, -was the approach of a troop of monkeys! These extraordinary creatures seemed to sanction by their presence the solemn treaty between the eastern and western people. The animals came in thousands, bounding from branch to branch, from tree to tree, until they assembled right over the heads of the assembly. There, they chattered, and mowed, and screamed to the utter suppression of all other business. Nor did they rest content with oral demonstration. They performed all sorts of antics; amongst others, they caught each his neighbour by the tail, and then forming living chains, they let themselves down from the lofty branches, and swung like great pendulums to and fro, scattering the human crowd from the orb of their gyration, and screaming frantically at the fun.

'It seemed to the Darien priests that there was no denying such a sign. With solemn awe they watched each evolution of the monkey mysteries; and-when the living chains, doubling themselves up, and recovering their lofty branches, broke into individual links and scampered off among the tree tops, startling great flocks of roosting parroquets, and scattering far and wide the wild sounds of their aërial procession-the priests with one accord intimated to their king that the gods were indeed well

pleased!

"Accordingly, a treaty was forthwith made and ratified. Full freedom was given to the Scots to settle in the land and enjoy it. Between them and the native Dariens there was declared to be 'Peace, as long as rivers ran, and gold was found in Darien."

The disastrous issue of an expedition which promised so fair is most graphically told, but we must refer our readers to Mr. Warburton's pages for the sequel, and the further fortunes

of the Merchant Prince.

In taking our leave of this-it is to be feared-last literary performance of one of our most eminent writers,—we recommend it # abounding in all the grace, variety, and vigour of style which adorn his former popular works, and as a romance embodying imaginings of intense interest.

Literary Fables. From the Spanish of Yriart. By Robert Rockliff. Longman and Co. SPANISH genius has produced one immortal work, which is known from Cadiz to the Ganges, from China to Peru. The Flower of Chivalry and his trusty Squire are familiarly known to the inhabitants of regions far removed from the cork groves of Andalusi or the plains of La Mancha. We can little of the mocking-bird's gold feathers, above which waved two long feathers of the scarlet macaw. As join in the sarcasm of Montesquieu, that 'Don Quixote' is the only good book the

Spaniards have; but it is certainly the one that is best known to foreigners,—the great contribution of Spain to the intellectual inheritance of mankind. While France and Italy, Germany and England, were imparting lights to one another, and to the whole human family, despotism and the Inquisition succeeded in crushing the noble character of the romantic Spaniard, and reduced the compositions in a language the finest of Rome's dialects to a collection of ballads, light plays, and romances. For several generations no lessons in philosophy came from Spain, no discussions in morals or in politics, no treatise on the wealth of nations, no discoveries in science, no trophies of art or genius. Yet, to the inquirers who ventured to see what Spanish literature contained, it presented not a few treasures of great beauty and elegancethe songs of Christian and Moorish chivalry, the amusing histories of many an adventurer, the stately narrative of Mariana, and the histories of the discovery and conquest of the

After the war of the succession at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and the more general intercourse of Spain with other nations, had let in some of the light possessed by the rest of Europe, several authors on various subjects became known beyond the Peninsula, and among them Don Thomas de Yriarte, a translation of whose Fables is now before us. Yriarte was born in 1750, on the island of Teneriffe, and educated at Madrid under the auspices of his uncle, Don Juan de Yriarte, of the king's library. From the age of twenty-one he was distinguished at court for his accomplishments, both in ancient and modern literature. He was employed in the office of Foreign Affairs and in the War Department, and being greatly occupied, his opportunities for indulging his poetical taste were much diminished. He wrote a didactic poem on music, published in 1780, and favourably known both in his own country and in Italy and France. In 1782 his Fables appeared. In 1786 he was summoned before the Inquisition as one infected with the new French philosophy. He died in 1791. A considerable portion of his writings consists of translations and personal controversies; the translations (says Ticknor) made with skill, and the quarrels managed with spirit and wit, but neither of them important enough to be now remembered.

It is upon his Fables that his reputation now exclusively rests. In the apologues of Esop, Phædrus, and La Fontaine, the speakers (arbores loquuntur, non tantum feræ) are made to convey moral instruction to mankind in general; but Yriarte has restricted his fictions, which are all original, to the correction of the faults and follies of men of learning. The editor of the first edition of the Fables, in 1782, remarks "that the inventors of moral fables have noticed in the lower animals qualities which may be made subservient to the regulation of life and manners, because the brutes evidently have feelings and passions; but as they neither read nor write, it was much more difficult to observe in them any peculiarities which had any analogy to the vices of literature, or to the precepts which could be useful as a rule to authors." But in spite of all difficulties, the precepts are so judicious, and the versification so graceful and various (nearly forty different measures being used), that they were well received at first, and have never lost their popularity. Some of the literary lost their popularity. Some of the literary patiently.

maxims which Yriarte inculcates are the following:—"We should have regard to the quality of a work, and not to the time spent in making it." "One may easily make a show by quoting and praising the great men of antiquity; the merit is to imitate them." "Those who corrupt their native idiom have no better revenge than to give the name of Purists to those who speak with propriety, as if that were any blot upon them." "Let no one presume to think himself an author merely because he writes a flimsy preface or notes to another man's work." "We should study the original authors, and not copyists or bad translators. A starling who wanted to learn to speak, instead of taking lessons from man, took a parrot for his master, and then imparted to a magpie the miserable jargon he had learned."

Mr. Rockliff has done a service to literature by producing a translation of Yriarte, and although he is far from having attained the graceful variety of the author's versification, he has at least, in imitation of him, tried metres of many sorts. He seems aware of one of his deviations from the original-viz. being in too many instances paraphrastical. He certainly is abundantly so. One Fable of nine lines is expanded into thirty by the translator. There are too frequent attempts at punning, for which, assuredly, there is no warrant in the original. Perhaps the shortest way to give our readers an idea, both of the original and the translation, will be to make a few extracts from the Prologo or Introduction. The lesson to be taught is this—that no individual should be offended at what is meant for general application. The orator is the elephant, who, seeing many abuses becoming fashionable in the animal world, called them together to advise a reformation. He courteously saluted the assembled multitude by waving his trunk, and discoursed with great gravity on the hurtful vices which prevailed-sloth, affectation, ignorance, and envy. Many of his auditors applauded him.

"El Cordero inocente,
La siempre fiel Paloma,
El leal Perdiguero,
La Abeja artificiosa,
El Caballo obediente,
La Hormiga ofanadora,
El habil Xilguerillo,
La simple Mariposa."

Thus translated by Mr. Rockliff:—

"The virtuous portion of the crew,
(But these, alas! were very few),
Received with open acclamation
The honest elephant's oration.
The gentle lambkin skipt with glee;
And blithely hummed the busy bee.
The faithful dog, the patient steer,
The dove, the emmet, and the deer,
By different tokens of applause,
Evinced their zeal in virtue's cause.
The meek ass, with a joyous bray,
Approved the speech; and, strange to say,
The horse assented by a—nay."

Some of these lines are pleasing, but not like the original, especially the last word of the last line.

The lion, tiger, fox, eagle, and vulture were of quite a different opinion:—

"So foul a libel on a bird, (another pun,)
The vulture vowed was never heard;"

and amidst a shout of disapprobation, and the jeers of the monkey, the elephant concluded by telling them that his observations were general, and not pointed at any individual; that whoever was too sensitive about his remarks took blame to himself, while those who were ungalled listened patiently. We can afford room for only one more of Mr. Rockliff's translations:—

"Los que quieren hacer á dos partidos, suelen consequir al desprecio de ambos.

"THE LION AND THE EAGLE.

"As once, perplex'd with cares of state,
The lion and the eagle sate
In earnest consultation—
For like the autocrats of men,
They held a congress now and then,
To put down innovation—

"Among their topics of complaint,
Enough to vex a brute or saint,
The eagle grumbled sadly,
That—though the bulk of them were bad—
Of all the subjects that he had,
The bat behaved most badly.

"'This thing,' he cried, 'this nondescript, Whom nature in mistake equipp'd,
A mouse with wings of leather,
Climbs to my skyey palace oft,
And passes for a bird aloft,
Altho' without a feather.

"" But quickly, if a quarrel rise
Away the renegado flies,
And dropping earthward, mutters
That he's a real quadruped,
And better born and better bred
Than any bird that flutters.

"' In short, the wretch in turn attacks
Both bird and beast behind their backs,
And even dares to slander
At times our royal selves, alas!
And says that you are half an ass,
And I am quite a gander.'

" 'What! half an ass!' the lion cried,
'My majesty thus vilified!
The bat—by all that's regal—
No more shall tread the earth, I swear.'
'Nor shall it ever mount in air
Again,' replied the eagle.

"And thus from earth and air outlaw'd,
(For both the monarchs are abroad
By day in their dominions),
The bat is forced to shun the light,
And only dares to ply by night
His solitary pinions.

"So merchant authors—they who range Between Parnassus and the 'Change, Sole denizens of neither— Who seek to play a double game, To grub for gold and fly at fame, Are seldom bless'd with either."

Mr. Rockliff dedicates the work to his sons, but there is a form of speech at page 113, which he would hardly wish them to use. Excepting this, and the author's propensity to common-place puns, we think he has done a service to literature by his translation of Yriarte; and if he induces some who have leisure and opportunity to consult the original, he will have been the means of introducing them to a pleasant and instructive companion.

The Head of the Family; a Novel. By the Author of "Olive," and "The Ogilvies." Chapman and Hall.

THE merit of this novel lies less in its story, which consists of a re-arrangement of rather threadbare materials, than in the literary skill shown in its treatment, and the frequent indieations of a fine vein of moral feeling in the writer. 'The Head of the Family,' Ninian Græme, is an Edinburgh writer to the signet, on whom the responsibility of supporting a large family of brothers and sisters has devolved by the early death of his parents. Having devoted himself to this duty, his task of self-sacrifice is rendered peculiarly severe by the necessity of subduing a passionate attachment which springs up insensibly in his heart for Hope Ansted, a young lady, whom the neglect of a spendthrift father has added to Mr. Græme's already too numerous responsibilities. The growth of this attachment, and the fiery conflict which he wages with it, are admirably told. It is a radical defect, however, that its object is a person altogether unworthy of so strong a feeling, being herself incapable of any deep and

abiding emotion. Life undoubtedly presents us with similar anomalies, but for the purposes of art we hold there should always be some proportion kept, as to strength of character and passion, between the lovers in whose fortunes we are called to sympathise. The key of her character is thus given:-

"Hers was the nature of many-nay, of most women, gentle and good; loving-not with that rare ideal devotion, pure as the tenderness of an angel, yet strong and self-sustaining as the passion of a man-but with the mild sweetness which is ever ready to answer love with love, so that the first who worthily woos is almost sure to win."

And, as if to prove, in spite of the writer's own apparent admiration of women of this plastic order, what a sorry business they usually make in the selection of their mates, Hope Ansted, although in daily contact with the watchful silent attentions of Ninian Græme's manly nature, in which no woman of ordinary, not to say of fine instincts, could have failed to read his deep devotion, drops with the utmost readiness into the arms of a handsome scoundrel, "with something grand and mediæval in the turn of his head," whose "worthy wooing" of the maid is succeeded by the heartless neglect of the wife. If romance has one purpose to fulfil more important than another, it is to warn such gentle loving natures" to cultivate judgment and self-respect, and not to encourage their weakness under the pretty names of mild sweetness and womanly gentleness. In the present case, the reader is apt to lose all patience with the hero for wasting so much strong feeling upon a woman so radically feeble, and to see their union at the close of the book with an indifference almost amounting to contempt. In individual passages of this part of the story, however, there is much to admire, as, for example, in the following, where Ninian first discovers the secret of his own heart. Hope Ansted is recovering from a dangerous illness:-

" He went at length to carry her down stairs. That was the most brilliant part of the plan. Ninian looked so pleased to see her childish delight, and told her gaily, 'that he would carry her from thence to Constantinople, if it would do her any good. Besides she was such a little light creature a mere feather to a great powerful man like him. And for once in his life, Ninian looked with some little pride at the reflection of his fine manly person

in the mirror.

" 'I'm strong, if I'm no bonnie,' said he, laughing. 'You are not afraid to trust me with your valuable little self, Hope? You know I am only going down stairs-not up to the top of a mountain -you remember that story we once read of the German princess being carried up a hill by—by— He broke off in his sentence, but Hope finished it

"'By her lover-was it not? And he died on the top, poor fellow! Truly I am glad the journey is only down stairs, for I should not like to kill my kind guardian as she killed her lover.'

" Ninian was silent.

" 'I have not vexed you, have I, with turning your pet story into a jest?' continued Hope, nxiously. 'You know I am not clever like Tin but I always admire whatever you tell me to admire.

" He patted her on the head—called her a good child, and lifted her in his strong arms. But as he held her there, poor little trembling thing! close to his breast, the German story entered his mind

—strangely—wildly. A dizziness came over him, he even staggered. Hope faintly screamed.

"'Don't be frightened, my child—my love—my darling!' said he. The words—words that he had never used before, not even to Tinie, burst

great difference between her years and his, they seemed quite natural.

" 'Never mind me-I feel quite safe-only I am so foolish,' she murmured, hiding her face so as not to see the grim 'descent.' There was a curl of her hair trembling outside her shawl; with an impulse impossible to resist Ninian pressed his lips upon it. None saw the action—Hope never knew it; but it betrayed the truth. It was a kiss-the last of calm affection, the first of passionate love. He knew now that the creature he held in his arms, dear as his life, was to him the woman and not the child.

"He laid her down-she leaned on Lindsay's breast, pale with exhaustion. But he dared not look at her, or speak to her. He muttered something about leaving 'the child' to rest—went out of the room, and was not seen for hours.

"Women, and especially young women, either

believe falsely or judge harshly of men, in one thing. You, young loving creature, who dream of your lover by night and by day-you fancy that he does the same of you? He does not he cannot; nor is it right he should. One hour, perhaps, your presence has captivated him, subdued him even to weakness; the next he will be in the world, working his way as a man among men, forgetting for the time being your very existence. Possibly if you saw him, his outer self, hard and stern,—so different to the self you know—would strike you with pain. Or else, his inner and diviner self, higher than you can dream of, would turn coldly from your insignificant love. Yet all this must be: you have no right to murmur. You cannot rule a man's soul-no woman ever did-except by holding unworthy sway over unworthy passions. Be content if you lie in his heart, as that heart lies in his bosom—deep and calm, its beatings unseen, uncounted, oftentimes unfelt; but still giving life to his whole being.

"Thus, Ninian Græme, the same day, the same hour that this delirium came upon him-for at all ages and under all circumstances love's wakening is ever a delirium—went as usual to his office and worked. Once or twice there seemed to come flashing round him an inexpressible light and joy. He felt on his lips the touch of the soft, soft curl; while evermore his heart sang to itself the words,

my darling, my darling.'

But still he kept working on. Truly, he had in him the most royal power a man can have—rule over his own soul."

So long as the authoress confines herself to the delineation of every-day characters, she keeps within the bounds of nature and truth. Many of her personages are drawn with considerable force, and with the strong individuality of outline which seems to mark them as studies from the life. But in the character of Rachel Armstrong, who forms the romantic element of the story, and on which she has bestowed the utmost elaboration, the laws of probability in incident and consistency in character are signally violated. This lady is first introduced to us in a condition of moping insanity:-

"A mournful wreck she was, but only as regarded her mind. The shape of her head was magnificent. Her hair of a dark-red auburn, somewhat coarse in texture, as that hue generally is, was rolled in heavy waves over her brow. And what a brow! Smooth, broad, queenly, over-shadowing the eyes, conveying the idea of mental power almost beyond a woman.

With a good deal more of highflown description to the same effect. We are scarcely prepared to find that a person stamped by nature with the impress of such wonderful intellect-a self-educated Scotch border-farmer's daughter, by the way-has entered into a marriage, constituted, not in facie Ecclesia, but in the more secular form. from him unawares; he was scarcely conscious of still recognised in Scotland, of a written them, till afterwards. And to Hope, from the promise, sequente copula, (of the legal effi-

cacy of which she seems to be as thoroughly cognizant as if she had studied the title 'Marriage' in Erskine's 'Institutes') and then allowed the evidence of the promise to pass into her seducer's hands! She takes, more. over, all his statements as to himself upon trust, and yet, when, as might be expected, he deserts her, this personage, who has, not withstanding all her "mental power," endangered her happiness and her reputation with such facility of folly, is reduced to a state of madness by the shame consequent upon her own reckless passion. Despite this palpable taint of lunacy, however, her fascinations are such, that she subdues the stern heart of a fiery young Presbyterian parson, rather more than touches that of our respectable writer to the signet, and sets the brain of a young writer of tragedies on fire. She is, however, equally insensible to them all, for one feeling, that of burning passion for her betrayer, which is transmuted into a demoniac spirit of revenge when she discovers his falsehood, has eaten up all other feelings in her nature. Yet is this monomaniae, for monomanic she is throughout, presented to us soon afterwards as a great tragic actress, before whom the hearts of London audiences are bowed by the irresistible mastery of her genius! Has the fair authoress ever considered what are the gifts and accomplishments that go to the making of a great trage actress? If she has, she must have learned that the foremost of these is a quickness and breadth of sympathy, and a subordination of every mood of passion to the laws of art, which are utterly inconsistent with such a narrow, violent, and purely selfish nature as that of Rachel Armstrong. She is but one of many, however, who mistake vehemence for power, and mere physical intensity for strong mental emotion. 'Torrents of passion,' 'marvellous energy,' go but a small way towards producing an actress who is to be called "magnificent—inspired—sublime." They are, in fact, the resources in which a woman of genius places the least reliance, for they may be counterfeited by the use of qualities merely physical; and yet, throughout the laboured descriptions of Rachel Armstrong's tragic genius, these, and these only, are dwell upon by the writer. The delineation of the nature of a great female artist demands sympathies which are obviously not within this author's reach. After the exquisite picture of such a nature in George Sand's 'Consuelo every novel reader has a standard by which to measure the shallowness and distortion of this portraiture of Rachel Armstrong. This masterpiece of genius, if it did not deter ordinary writers from approaching the subject, might, we should have thought, have taught them the spirit in which it ought to be treated. Neither is the present writer less fault in her delinesting. fault in her delineations of the personal habits and life of her Caledonian Siddons, than is in depicting the elements of professions excellence. For example, while she is held as a pattern of purity and propriety, w find her joining an orgy in a tavern in Coresi Garden with dissipated newspaper critical loungers behind the scenes, and ballet-dance ing Aspasias, as if this were no unusual thing with actresses in her position; and in another place she is represented as admitting to be lodgings a roue, who, as she is aware, visite her for the sole purpose of making dishonous able proposals! And yet this is the actres "magnificent — inspired — sublime,"—the woman of genius, of high feeling, and refined dignity of soul! The inconsistencies of such a character are apparent to all, but the pretensions which are set forth in this book to knowledge of the habits and pursuits of members of the dramatic profession of the rank claimed for Rachel Armstrong, may convey false impressions of a class who are already too apt to be misrepresented by ignorance and prejudice. Where in the annals of the stage will the authoress find warrant for such a picture? The gifted women who have ennobled it have been as good and unapproachable by dishonour as they have been gifted.

Let us warn the fair authoress against a tendency to slipshod familiarity in her language, which even in conversation would be inadmissible. Within the compass of one page we find the following phrases:-"He was just starting to his daily duties" -" His manner was nothing remarkable" -" Passing strangers often took mightily to Ninian Græme;" and we might easily fill a column with similar vulgarisms. The characters are for the most part Scotch, which may be the writer's reason for using 'will' for 'shall,' and 'shall' for 'will,' wherever that can best be done, to the confusion of all sense; but a tolerably extensive experience convinces us that persons of the same class, even in that ungrammatical region, scarcely carry the abuse to such an aggravating extent. These vices of style interfere very seriously with the reader's enjoyment, and should, along with a general tendency to vulgarity in the attempt at playful ease, be avoided by the writer in any future work.

We are surprised, too, to find so sensible a person as the authoress of this novel obviously is, guilty of the bad taste of prefixing to it

the following dedication:-

"I dedicate this book to no personal friend, but to one who has been for years the good influence of my life. Nothing she knows, or ever may know of me; yet it pleases me to offer this—probably the last novel I shall write for some time—to a woman, the mere naming of whom transcends all praise,— Elizabeth Barrett Browning."

In this the compliment to Mrs. Browning, at once extravagant and commonplace, is less conspicuous than the egotism of the writer. What is it to the public that Mrs. Browning has been for years the good influence of her life, even if the fact be so, which is more than questionable,—or that this is the last novel she may write for some time? The circulating libraries will not, therefore, be thrown into despair. If dedicated the book must be, how much better to have allowed the simplest language to tell its own tale of the author's admiration of Mrs. Browning's genius. That lady is not likely to reciprocate the admiration professed for herself, for she knows her own place among "the great heirs of fame" too well to attach any value to such missyish adulation.

We have pointed out what have presented themselves to us as the prominent faults of this book—first, because the writer has obviously the power of doing better things, if she will devote more consideration to the plan and purpose of her stories, and confine herself to a range of characters within her own sphere of observation and sympathy; and next, because it has been praised for those parts which we have noticed as most objectionable. There is so much good feeling and sound thinking in the book, however, that despite of it faults it will doubtless be read with pleasure by

Leaves from the Note-Book of a Naturalist. By W. J. Broderip, Esq., F.R.S. J. W. Parker and Son.

In the writings of the hangers-on of the biological sciences there is often no small amount of cant about 'field-naturalists.' This term is usually applied to men who, despising systematic science and monographic labour, make short excursions among wild flowers and singing birds, and on their return home write rhapsodies about their brief experiences. Their pens are, in most instances, endowed with a quality exactly analogous with that popularly termed 'gab,' when tongues are spoken of. They hold hardworking anatomists, and minutely-laborious investigators of species, in equal and undisguised dislike. They delight in the English names of cockchafers and cock-sparrows, and scarcely conceal their contempt for Linnæus and the nomenclature he invented. They believe that no man who is tied to a museum, or whose duties necessarily limit his studies within the confines of London, can understand the beauties of the animal and vegetable worlds. They never read books if they can help it, though very anxious that others should read their own. They are scattered over all parts of Britain, here and there, and some few are nestled even in the great metropolis itself. They have no faith in collections, and doubt the utility of zoological and botanical gardens, unless the animals in the former could be allowed to run wild, and the plants in the latter permitted to intermingle and intertwine in unsystematic confusion.

These so-called 'field-naturalists' seem to forget that the majority of our best workers in the cabinet and herbarium have enjoyed experiences over land and amid sea, beside which their suburban walks and holiday excursions must look small indeed. They forget, too, that among those naturalists, properly so called, who have not had the good fortune to enjoy the delights of travel and adventurous research, there are many who, through careful study of the works of the masters in science, and equally careful examination of the invaluable accumulations of natural objects brought together in museums through the toils and daring of true labourers in the field, have mastered, even to the minutest details, one or more departments of natural history, and thus duly qualified themselves for the high position and deserved authority conceded to them. Such is the author of the delightful volume now before us, filled as it is with the choicest fruits of extensive reading, not unmingled with original notes on the manners of living creatures, and the organization of dead ones, many of them the result of attentive studies in that admirable school of 'vertebratology,' our unrivalled Zoological Gardens. How the spirit of Gilbert White may find worthy work within the smoky boundaries of Regent's Park, such notices as the following graphic description of the snake-charming that not very long ago excited the unquenchable curiosity of Londoners will show:-

"On the 26th of May, the day on which I first saw the hippopotamus, I witnessed the performance of the Arab snake-charmers, of whom I have already spoken. After their dinner they came from the giraffe-house, proceeding along the gravel-walk to the reptile-house, on the floor of which, about three o'clock in the afternoon, or a little later, the performance took place. The charmers took up a position at the end of the house, opposite to the lodging of the great Pythons, of whose size the old

Arab had heard with something very like incredulity. The company stood in a semicircle, and at a respectful distance. There was not much difficulty in getting a front place, but those behind pressed the bolder spectators rather inconveniently forward.

"Standing in the open space the old Arab said something to the young one, who stooped down under the reptile cases on the north side of the room, and took out a large deal box with a sliding cover, which looked like a box for stowing away a set of Brobdignag chessmen, drew off the cover, thrust in his hand, and pulled out a large long naia haje. After handling it and playing with it a little while, he set it down on the floor, half squatted close to it, and fixed his eye on the snake. The serpent instantly raised itself, expanded its hood, and turned slowly on its own axis, following the eye of the young Arab, turning as his head, or eye, or body turned. Sometimes it would dart at him, as if to bite. He exercised the most perfect command over the animal. All this time the old Arab stood still, pensively regarding the operation; but presently he also squatted down, muttering some words, opposite to the snake. He evidently affected the reptile more strongly than his more mercurial relative, though he remained motionless, doing nothing that I could see but fixing his eyes upon the snake, with his face upon a level with the raised head of the serpent, which now turned all its attention to him, and seemed to be in a paroxysm of rage. Suddenly it darted open-mouthed at his face, furiously dashing its expanded whitish-edged jaws into the dark hollow cheek of the charmer, who still imperturbably kept his position, only smiling bitterly at his excited antagonist. I was very close, and watched very narrowly; but though the snake dashed at the old Arab's face and into it more than twice or thrice with its mouth wide open, I could not see the projection of any fang.

"Then the old Arab, who, it was said, had had the gift of charming serpents in his family for a long series of years, opened another box, and took out four or five great lizards, and provoked the naia with them, holding them by the tails in a sort of four-in-hand style. Then the youth brought out a cerastes, which I observed seemed overpowered, as if, as the country people say, something had come over it. He placed it on the floor, but this serpent did not raise itself like the naia, but, as the charmer stooped to it, moved in a very odd, agitated manner, on its belly, regarding him askant. I thought the serpent was going to fly at the lad, but it did not He took it up, played with it, blew or spit at it, and then set it down, apparently sick, subdued, and limp. He then took it up again, played with it a second time, gathered it up in his hand, put it in his bosom, went to another box, drew the lid, and brought out more snakes, one of which was another naia, and the others of a

most venomous kind.

"Now there were two naiss, with heads and bodies erect, obeying, apparently, the volition of the charmers. One of the snakes bit the youth on the naked hand, and brought the blood; but he only spat on the wound and scratched it with his nail, which made the blood flow more freely. Then he brought out more lizards of a most revolting aspect. By this time the floor of the reptile-house, that formed the stage of the charmers, began to put one in mind of the incantation scene in Der Freischutz, only that the principal performers looked more like the Black Huntsman and one of his familiars than Max and Caspar, and the enchanters' circle was surrounded with fair ladies and their well-dressed lords, instead of the appalling shapes which thronged round the affrighted hunts-man at the casting of the charmed bullets. The Arabs, holding the snakes by the tails, let their bodies touch the floor, when they came twisting and wriggling on towards the spectators, who now backed a little upon the toes of those who pressed them from behind. Sometimes the charmers would loose their hold, when the serpents, as if eager to escape from their tormentors, rapidly advanced upon the retreating ring; but they always caught them by the tails in time, and then made them repeat the same advances. I kept my position in

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front throughout, and had no fear, feeling certain that Mr. Mitchell, and those under whose superintendence this highly amusing and instructive establishment is so well conducted, would not have permitted the exhibition to take place, if there had been the least danger. Besides this, I observed that the charmers only used their own serpents, which they had, I presume, brought with them; and I confess that the impression upon my mind was, that they had been rendered innoxious by mechanical means."

If ever the unicorn be dethroned from his accustomed seat beside the royal arms, we hope his place may be taken by the hippopotamus. This charming monster has waggled his way into the affections of all true Britons, and in his present plump and happy-looking condition might fairly stand as an emblem of our country in its highest state of prosperity. Moreover, like a Briton, he is an amphibious animal, quite at home on the land, most active and formidable when in the water. The unicorn has never deigned to come among us, long as we have adored him; the hippopotamus has not only come, but made himself perfectly at home and happy among us. Everybody is interested in his progress, growth, and even in his companions, for, assuredly, his worthy and very intelligent Arab keeper shares in the general sympathy, and is gradually becoming as essential to the English nation as the royal coachman, or any other great officer of state. Every memorandum respecting our fat friend at the gardens has its value, and fortunate is he in being visited occasionally by Mr. Broderip. One note out of many about him, full of valuable data for his future biographer, we

"6th Oct.—I to the Zoological Garden, and in my way to the hippopotamus came upon a late hatch of six young black swans not long out of the egg, walking with their affectionate mother, the proud father strutting in advance ready to do battle with all comers, and as if he defied the world. Looked in upon Jenny Lind, who had broken her horn at the base, or rather loosened it at the suture, so that it went quite back. But the keeper set it cleverly, and it is now in place, exalted, like that of her namesake by Brother Jonathan; so that she carries her head as proudly and symmetrically as any giraffe of them all.

"The great tortoise had cuddled into a corner of

his house, as if he felt the approach of winter.
"Hippo was in his bath. When he sinks he puts back his ears, and closes them to keep out the water. A large vegetable marrow was thrown to him by Hamet. He mumbled it for some time in the water, and below the surface as well as above, making an impression on the fruit but not breaking it. When below the surface he would let it out of his mouth, and then rise after it as it floated to the top, trying his young teeth upon it. At last his vegetable appetite appeared to be roused. He brought it to one of the steps of his bath, and, reposing, set to work upon it in good earnest, with all but his head still in the water, succeeded in breaking it, bit off pieces, chewed them with a slow, champing, snapping motion, without any lateral grinding, and swallowed them. He had previously been offered green maize, which he numbled, broke, and played with, but did not eat, so far as I could see. Boiled carrots and kohl-rübe were more to his taste; and he had eaten freely of them before the experiment of the raw vegetable marrow was made. All this looks like a healthy state of stomach, and I cannot help hoping that his careful attendants will bring him through the winter. He was rather fractious at first on being left, but is now reconciled to the absence of his kind Hamet at night, and sleeps by himself very comfortably. In short, his conduct entirely justifies the epithet conferred on him by Mr. Dickens, who has immortalized 'The Good Hippopotamus.'

Had it not been that this volume is a reprint of a series of papers that appeared originally in one of our best magazines, we should have commented more fully on, and given more ample specimens of, its amusing and instructive contents. It is sure to diffuse a sound taste for natural history, and can boast of literary merit equal to its scientific excellence. It is a fine example of the good services that can be rendered to science by the intellectual employment of the leisure hours of an accomplished gentleman, whose laborious public duties occupy no small portion of his time.

The Pursuivant of Arms; or, Heraldry founded upon Facts. By J. R. Planché, F.S.A. W. N. Wright.

It is not the easiest thing in the world to review a treatise on heraldry. Few of our readers would be amused or interested with two or three dry discussions on individual armorial bearings. Extracts from such a book are almost impossible. And we cannot look upon it as a very interesting question whether, as many writers on the subject sustain, heraldry is one of the most important of all sciences, or, as some pretend, it be of no

importance at all.

For ourselves we look upon heraldry as simply one of those branches of knowledge which is useful in its proper place. The origin of the science-if it may properly be called a science—is intimately interwoven in the origin of history. When men became distinguished, and felt themselves animated by those natural feelings of pride and ambition which distinction generates, they sought some method of marking to the eye their position, and, as the first means of distinction were military talents and courage, no readier method presented itself than that of placing a distinguishing sign or symbol on the shield, as the most conspicuous of the warrior's accoutrements. During long and glorious ages of the history of the world such symbols were adopted amongst almost all peoples, and there can be no doubt that they constituted heraldry in the simplest acceptation of the word. But each armorial bearing was the badge of the individual, and spoke of himself but not of his family. It was under the feudalism of the middle ages only that heraldry was, or perhaps could be, reduced to a system such as it presents in our days. As far as we can trace it, the adoption of armorial bearings as family badges began in the latter half of the twelfth century. This is a fact which we believe is generally acknowledged, but we doubt much whether, as some suppose, the crusades had anything to do with it, or whether it was anything more than a natural accompaniment of the peculiar progress of society in that age. It is remarkable—and this is a circumstance noticed neither by Mr. Planché nor, we believe, by any other writer on the subject—that the period of the adoption of armorial bearings as family badges was exactly that in which family names or surnames were coming into existence in the middle, and in some degree into the lower classes of society, among whom they were what the others were to the aristocracy. Thus, as it exists at the present day, heraldry is one of the least objectionable relics of the noxious feudal system of the middle ages. As long as such a thing as pride of ancestry exists, this simplest and surest form of expressing it, once invented, can hardly fail to

be preserved with it; and there is no greater proof how natural this sort of pride is, than the feeling which is daily becoming stronger among our Transatlantic brethren, and is driving them, we understand, in crowds to the herald's office in the mother country. With such feelings, heraldry is of course a pleasing study, and from the very fact of its former importance it is with many a useful study; for, although we are not inclined to give it so prominent a place in the helps to history even as Mr. Planché would give it, yet it often enables us to trace a small link, or illustrate a fact, which would otherwise be broken or obscure.

Without, therefore, considering it as a matter of much account when and how heraldry originated—the one has been ascer. tained with sufficient accuracy, and the other must ever remain obscure-we are prepared to regard heraldry as a useful science, and to approve of every attempt to make it simple and correct. We have always considered Mr. Planché to be a good herald, and heis known to every one as a popular writer. His 'Pursuivant at Arms' is one of the best introductions to this science that could be placed in the hands of the student. Mr. Planché has entered upon his subject con amore; he has carefully sifted and weighed all the authorities from the time of the first writers on the subject to the present, and he has constructed a simple and plain system, which is presented to the student in a very popular manner.

Etudes sur le Passé et l'Avenir de l'Artillerie. Par Louis Napoléon Bonaparte, Président de la République Française. Paris: Du-

ALTHOUGH we feel, in common with the immense majority of our countrymen of all classes and all creeds, burning indignation at Louis Bonaparte's foul treason and fouler perjury-at his horrible assassination of peaceable citizens, and his abominable expatriation of the best, the noblest, and the most patriotic of his countrymen—at his infamous suppression of all a people's liberties, and his atrocious persecution and silencing of the press, and of writers and authors-although we feel this, it would not become us, because it would be unjust, to deny that he possesses literary talent of no mean order, and that, if fortune had made him a simple homme de lettres, instead of le neveu de mon oncle, it is almost certain that, by this time, he would have achieved a tolerably respectable amount of literary greatness. Whoever, in fact, has read his speeches or proclamations in French, must have been struck by the manly elegane and vigour of their style, and by a certain originality of thought and expression; and the same qualities are displayed in his published works.

The book, of which the first two volumes are before us—one having been published in 1846, the other a few weeks ago—is, we suppose, intended to be the principal foundation of the author's literary fame, and perhaps he may hope that it will in some respects redeem the infamy of his political acts. Artillery has always been his hobby, partly because mon oncle commenced his career as an artilleryman, partly because he himself was accustomed to blaze away as captain of the artillery in the militia of the Canton of Thurgau; and he has always attached infinitely more importance to his book on artil-

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lery than to his famous socialist productions, or than even his not less famous Napoleonic "ideas" on the art of government. It is but justice to say that he has taken an immensity of pains in collecting materials from all possible sources. They trace with fidelity the progress of fire-arms, and their influence in war. They show what fortified places were before cannon came into use, and what effect cannon had on them. They contrast the long sieges of by-gone days, with artillery drawn by oxen, and when once fixed almost immoveable, with that in use in modern times. They detail the various improvements effected, and the reasons why, and the advantages derived from them; and they give descriptions of several notable sieges. All this comes under the head of "useful information;" and though a good deal of it is of a mere technical character, and as such interesting only to the soldier, it may be profitable to the historical and general reader. It is enlivened with some episodes of war cleverly narrated, and we notice amongst them one or two in which the English are represented to have been worsted by the French, and especially an account from an ancient chronicle of the manner in which Joan of Arc raised the siege of Orleans in defiance of the English cannon, when, as Shakspere says, she cried-

"Advance our waving colours on the walls; Rescued is Orleans from the English wolves: Thus Joan la Pucelle hath performed her word."

Treating only of the past, the two volumes are, strictly speaking, only a compilation; and it almost seems, from the elaborate and needless trouble which Louis Napoleon has taken to mention authorities for his statements, that he is willing to have them so considered. However, in the three volumes which have yet to come to complete the work, he will, if his promise be fulfilled, be quite original, as he is to develop technical questions, and to state his own views on artillery. We cannot help wishing that he may very soon be able to devote himself exclusively to this literary undertaking; for then we should, probably, have a good book the more and a tyrant the less.

NOTICES.

Historical Essays. By John Coleman. Hatchards. To the first and most elaborate of the essays in this volume, 'On French Socialism,' recent and current events in France give peculiar interest. Written in 1850, the subsequent history of French politics confirms and illustrates the statements and arguments of that paper, in which the objects and plans of socialism receive a fair and full examination. The author shows a thorough acquaintance with both the social and political state of France, and with national usages and character. Historical and statistical facts are skilfully united and brought to bear upon the arguments and reflections of the essay. A more faithful and forcible picture of the present state of French society we have not elsewhere lately seen. The political aspect of affairs is all changed since the 2nd of December; but the social state is not much different under Louis Napoleon from what it was when Mr. Coleman wrote. There are two other essays on French subjects, entitled 'Historical Fragments,' one on the Merovingian Kings,' and the other on 'Causes of the Revolution of 1789.' These are marked by similar historical knowledge and sound judgment, and give a simple but animated narration of the vents to which they refer. These fragments are only preliminary essays to the time of the revolu-tion of 1789, describing the causes, remote and immediate, which rendered that great movement inevitable. The sketch of the court and times of Louis XIV. is admirably drawn; and the character of the Grand Monarque, Madame de Maintenon,

Fenelon, Pascal, Colbert, Molière, and many of the conspicuous names of that period, are vividly portrayed. With equal success Mr. Coleman treats of English history, in his 'Essay on the English Revolution of 1640,' of which he gives an impartial but a spirited and interesting account. In the 'Essay on Edmund Waller,' there is a mixture of historical and literary matter; and in that on Collins the poet, there is much solid and agreeable literary criticism. Although we are deterred by the variety of its contents from giving a longer review of Mr. Coleman's volume, we must express our high sense of the excellence both of the matter and the style of these essays. We are surprised that an author with information and judgment so mature has not made himself before this known in the literary world. Always excepting the brilliant articles of Macaulay in the 'Edinburgh Review,' there is no historical writer in our periodical literature superior to Mr. Coleman, either in the soundness and extent of his views, or the force and clearness of his style. This is high praise, but we are sure that all who read this volume will deem it just. If Mr. Coleman could take up some period of our English annals not preoccupied by other historians, instead of scattering his labours in miscellaneous essays, he has every qualification for producing a work that would take its place in our national literature. Biblical Antiquities; with some collateral subjects, illustrating the Languages, Geography, and Early History of Palestine. By F. A. Cox, D.D.

John J. Griffin and Co.

This volume forms one of the treatises of the new octavo edition of the 'Encyclopædia Metropolitana,' and comprises a variety of subjects, which may be grouped under the general title of 'Biblical Antiquities.' The origin, history, customs, manners, laws, and religion, of the Jewish nation are described. Of the Hebrew language and literature a short but satisfactory sketch is given. Some account is also added of modern Judaism, and the condition of the Jews in different countries at the present time. To the geography and natural history of Palestine several chapters are devoted, and in the illustration of this part of the subject use has been made of the most recent travels in these parts, such as the American expedition to the Jordan under Lieutenant Lynch. But the most elaborate and most interesting part of the volume is that which relates to the antiquities of the Hebrew nation, their civil and religious polity, their domestic life and manners, and their various institutions. On these subjects Dr. Cox has furnished a clear and copious account. With his own re-searches there are embodied, in the present treatise, various contributions by the Revs. T. Hartwell Horne, Dr. Molesworth, Dr. M'Caul, and G. C. Renouard, prepared for the former edition of the 'Encyclopædia.' Not only on Biblical antiquities, but also on the Hebrew language and institutions, and modern Judaism, a variety and amount of information are presented in Dr. Cox's work which will not be found in any other single volume on these subjects.

A Manual of Geographical Science, Mathematical, Physical, Historical, and Descriptive. J. W. Parker and Son.

This is the first part of a geographical text-book, claiming to rank considerably higher than any of the manuals of geography at present in use. It is the joint production of several authors, all eminent or well known in the world of science, and all men in whom educators may put trust. The subjects treated of are, first, Mathematical Geography, fully and ably discussed by Professor O'Brien; second, Chartography, an essay by Colonel Jackson, - it may be consulted with advantage by topographers and surveyors; third, Physical Geography, a closely printed treatise of more than 200 pages, full of well-digested and condensed information-this has been written by the indefatigable Prof. Ansted; and fourth, some sensible chapters on the Theory of Description and Geographical Terminology, by the Rev. C. G. Nicolay, of King's College, who appears to be the editor of the whole work. A convenient selection of maps, illustrative of the leading facts of physical geography, accompanies

the text, in the shape of a separate atlas. We can conscientiously speak of this 'Manual' in terms of very high praise.

Annals of the Christian Church, in Metre. By the Rev. George Bayldon. Rouse and Co. THE history of the Christian church from the Apostolic age down to the Reformation is here presented in metrical form. The author has made use of rhyme, he tells us, "from its proverbial power of impressing itself upon the memory." He also tells us that "he has studiously avoided any display of poetic ornament, although aware that some portions of the subject are susceptible of it." This announcement a glance at any page of the book renders superfluous. In such lines as the following a little display of 'poetic ornament' would be an advantage:-

"INCREASE OF MONACHISM. CENTURY II. CHAP. 10. " 'Monk,' derived from µövor, solitary. Antonius, the Egyptian, led a very Great many people into deserts wild, Who at this period were ασκηται styled. Hilarion of Palestine his notions Acted upon, his system of devotions Enlarged, those people from the deserts led, And they in monasteries lived instead." Or take this, from the Fifteenth Century:-

"THE REVIVAL OF LITERATURE. " Literature rose anew in Italy, France, Britain, Spain, and also Germany. The Popes even furthered it, a class of men Not noted for their love of it till then.
Eugenius, Nicholas, and Sixtus favoured
It, though their patronage a little savoured
Of ostentation, and the Medicean Family of Florence, and most European Electors, princes, emperors, and kings, Welcomed with joy this better state of things."

These extracts will suffice to show the style of a book which we would scarcely criticise for its own sake, but which we notice on account of the indication it gives of the poor ideas of education too prevalent throughout the country, especially where instruction is entirely in the hands of the clergy. It is a mistaken idea, in the first place, to suppose that such metre as this is more readily received or retained than plain prose. And besides, the mechanical cramming necessary in the process is sad work for the youthful faculties. Very much of the 'education' of our provincial grammarschools and private tutors is, we fear, of this mechanical kind. We reviewed not long since a complete 'Encyclopædia of Knowledge, in Verse,' by some worthy clergyman, and expressed pity for the poor victims into whose minds it was to be packed. One satisfaction as to the book before us is, that the matter of the poetry is not only harmless but instructive, being selected from the respectable works of Bingham and Mosheim, and from Wright's translation of Spanheim's 'Annals.'

German Wordbook, or Comparative Vocabulary. By A. Bernays, Ph.D., of King's College, Lon-

don. J. W. Parker and Son. Dr. Bernays has for many years past done much to facilitate the study of his own language in this country. His 'Grammar' and 'Exercises,' his 'Anthologies' and 'Handbooks,' as they have been approved by the authorities of King's College, so they have long and deservedly been favourites with the general public. But we conscientiously believe that by the little book now before us, Dr. Bernays has surpassed all his former efforts. He has attempted, in about 160 small pages, to show the great affinity which exists between our language and the German; to facilitate the student's labour by supplying him with a large number of words which, by their arrangement, may be easily remembered; and, lastly, to draw the learner's attention to etymology in general, by displaying before him, in the simple form of a vocabulary, the develop ment of a language from a few roots and stems, and the formation of words by internal changes. Need we say that these objects have been fully attained? The little book contains, moreover, the German alphabet, the fundamental rules, and a variety of examples for a correct pronunciation. We know of no better 'Handbook' to recommend to the students of the German language, young and old, and we believe that a strict adherence to Dr. Bernays' plan will be instrumental in con-

quering a great many of the difficulties which have hitherto tended to make German works 'sealed books' indeed to the majority even of the edu-cated and learned. As for the 'German Phrasebook,' which the author announces as a sequel to the 'Wordbook,' we expect its appearance with great interest and some impatience.

Helen of Innspruck; or, The Maid of Tyrol. A Poem in Six Cantos. Hamilton, Adams, and Co. A POEM avowedly composed for the amusement of a child, even when love and liberty are its themes, and Hofer of Tyrol one of its heroes, cannot be such as to be measured by the usual rules of criticism. A parent putting into verse a story of patriotism and piety for the amusement and instruction of his little boy, has neither planned nor written a poem for those by whom its literary merits can be tested. We therefore forbear from saying more than that the story of the Tyrolese struggle for freedom is well narrated, and many of the passages have true poetic power and beauty. One or two stanzas will give an idea of the style and of the metre of the poem

"For worthy of the land that gives them birth
Are Tyrol's hardy sons, the bold, the free,
Whose best affections round their native hearth Still fondly linger, wheresoe er they be; Whether in that dear isle beyond the sea, Which no poor foreign exile seeks in vain,

Or in the groves of sunny Italy,
The fields of France, or vine-clad hills of Spain,
The hope, which cheers their steps, their country to regain." Much of the poem has the air of mere narrative metrified, but every here and there, whether in the

martial or the gentler passages, the spirit of true poetry appears. When Ernest, the hero of the tale, and the companion of Hofer, first gains Helen

of Innspruck,-

"Ernest was blest indeed; if blest be he Who finds at last an anchorage for his soul, Which long perchance bath drifted o'er the sea Of life, unrudder'd and without control; For now, as points the needle to the pole, The wanderer's heart hath fixed itself on one, Who long as Time's unbroken billows roll, Shall reign the empress of his bosom's throne; Yes, Helen gives consent, and she shall be his own."

Had the author altered the style of many parts of his volume before publication, and always written as if addressing men, not children, with such a theme, and such facility of verse, a noble poem might have appeared. As it is, 'Helen of Innspruck' contains many fine passages, and is throughout written in a pleasing style and spirit.

Charity and its Fruits. By Jonathan Edwards, President of the College of New Jersey. Edited, from the Original MSS., by the Rev. Tryon Edwards, D.D. Nisbet and Co.

PRESIDENT EDWARDS is recognised in this country as the profoundest thinker and one of the ablest writers of America, 'the metaphysician of the New World,' as Dugald Stewart called him. His name stands high both in the literary and the theological world. His treatises on the 'Freedom of the Will.' and 'On the Affections,' will ever remain standard works in metaphysical and ethical philosophy. He was not less distinguished as a faithful and pious Christian minister. His pulpit discourses, while pastor of a church at Northampton, were always carefully prepared, and all his manuscripts have been preserved. He appears to have been a most voluminous writer, probably more so than any known divine except Richard Baxter. The work of John Owen amount to nearly thirty volumes octavo. Baxter's works, if collected, would, it is said, extend to some sixty volumes, or from thirty to forty thousand closely-printed octavo pages. The editor of this work of Edwards says that he has in his possession manuscripts as numerous as those of Baxter. These manuscripts have been kept together since the President's death, about a century ago, and have now been committed to the present editor, as sole permanent trustee, by the surviving grandchildren of the author. The discourses now published were prepared for the pulpit in 1738. They consist of a series of practical sermons on 'Charity and its Fruits, or Christian Love as manifested in the Heart and Life,' being lectures on the 13th chapter of St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. They are marked by Jesuit intrigue, somewhat tiresome to the general

all the depth of thought and acuteness of analysis for which Jonathan Edwards as a metaphysician was remarkable, while they also display a fulness of scriptural truth, and an aptness of practical application, which give a high idea of the author as a faithful and useful Christian pastor. The great bulk of published sermons in the present day are so weak and unsubstantial, that we hail such a contribution as this to theological literature, intellectually solid and massive, and at the same time addressed to the heart with the simplicity and earnestness of scriptural exposition.

Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin. Vol. V. Part I.

THE Irish geologists have followed their London brethren in adopting the wholesome practice of demanding from their president an annual address on the state and progress of their science. This tract contains the address delivered in February last. Like its predecessors, it is a very able and carefully concocted document, drawn up with critical care. Its author, Lieutenant-Colonel Portlock, is a highly-distinguished man of science, and has rendered many services to geology, his favourite study. Official duties have lately removed him to the neighbourhood of London, where his presence is as welcome as it was in the sister-kingdom.

The Desert Home. By Captain Mayne Reid. Bogue.

A BOOK for boys, and well suited to its purpose. It the story of an English family settling amid the wilds of North America, thrown upon their own resources, and by energy and patience making the best of their lot. The dangers and adventures incidental to such a mode of life are narrated vividly, and with good taste. The peculiar aspects of the animal world in the wilderness are cleverly made subservient to the course of the tale, and the habits of the strange creatures of the countries skirting the rocky mountains are portrayed with praiseworthy skill and truth. The volume is well got up; it is illustrated by Harvey, who contributes a number of very clever drawings, cut on wood in a sketchy and effective style.

The Life and Trials of a Youthful Christian in Pursuit of Health. By the Rev. H. T. Cheever. Bentley.

A BIOGRAPHICAL sketch of an amiable young American physician, written by an affectionate brother, whose name has of late been before the public as the author of several interesting works about the

SUMMARY.

The first part has appeared of a re-issue of The Portrait Gallery, with the biographies originally published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. The issue is to be monthly, and to be completed in twenty-four parts. In the present number we have Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Wicliff, Chaucer, Lorenzo de' Medici, and Cardinal Ximenes. The excellence of the literary part of the work is well known, and the steel engravings, mostly from original pictures, are such as would scarcely show that any impression had already been taken from the plates. For use in the library, or ornament in the drawing-room, such books as 'The Portrait Gallery' are adapted, addressing both the intellect and the taste.

Under the title of Fiction but not Falsehood, the writer of a kind of religious novel conveys useful moral and scriptural information, through the medium of a tale, with the ordinary amount of incident and character. Discussions on subjects, which when formally stated would be regarded as dry, are here introduced in the pleasing variety of dialogue. Carlington Castle, a tale of the Jesuits, by the author of the 'Curate of Linwood,' 'Amy Harrington,' and other tales, professes to be founded on facts, and the chief characters to be drawn from life. This we can believe, as there is in the story a 'verisimilitude' which gives it interest, in addition to the skill of the narrative and the goodness of the style. The subject is of

mind; but there are always quiet circles, apart from the busy world, where such books find eager readers, and where their influence may be most useful, as in such places crafty perverters best love to angle.

The second part is now published of The State of Man after the Promulgation of Christianity, a historico-philosophical treatise, the nature and design of which we formerly explained. The period included in this volume is from the death of Constantine the Great, A.D. 337, to the enthronement of the centurion Phocas in 602. The history of the Christian church, and of the world, from the establishment of Christianity as the religion of the Roman Empire till the rise of Mohammedanism, is here ably reviewed, according to the principles of the author. The volume is the twentieth of a series of Small Books on Great Subjects, edited by a few well-wishers to knowledge, issued from the Chiswick press under the auspices of Mr. Pickering.

From the 'Children's Missionary Magazine,' & number of stories by Mrs. M. A. S. Barber, are reprinted under the title of The Hearths of the Poor, in which lessons of kindness and charity are conveyed, and an appeal made in behalf of ragged schools, city missions, and other schemes of benevolence. Echoes of the Great Exhibition, by Joseph Turner, being a little collection of eighteen sonnets, in which pious reflections are made on some of the appearances and results of the World's Show. The Journal of a Summer Tour. Part I., from Ostend to the Lake of Constance, by the author of 'Amy Herbert,' 'The Child's First History of Rome,' and other juvenile books, was written with a view to the entertainment of the children of a village school, and being simple in style, and varied in incidents, may be acceptable to young people, for whom larger books of travels would be unsuitable. 'To those about to Marry,' a laughable piece of pictorial advice and warning is presented, in a series of pictures by Watts Phillips, showing How we (the Jones's) commenced housekeeping, with an account of my mother-in-law, Mrs. Smith.

In Bohn's Classical Library, a volume is given which will be most acceptable to scholars and students, A New Prose Translation of the Odes of Pindar, by Mr. Dawson Turner, head master of the Royal Institutional School, Liverpool. The text of Bergk has been followed, from whom the prefaces also are taken. With the labours of com-mentators on Pindar, both English and foreign, Mr. Turner is evidently well acquainted, and his obligations to Boeckh and Dissen, Cookesley and Donaldson, are duly acknowledged. His version is in general done with as much spirit and elegance as was compatible with his object of making a literal translation. The volume also contains reprint of the 'Metrical Translation of the Pindaric Odes, with critical and explanatory notes, by Abraham Moore.' With these two versions, even those unacquainted with the original may gain good knowledge of the great master of lyric poetry, while the Greek scholar has now facilities for the study of Pindar not before easily within his reach. It is one of the best of the many good volumes which have appeared in 'The Classical Library.

The proprietors of the 'Weekly Dispatch' de serve praise for the very interesting and wellexecuted Statistical Chart of the Great Exhibition, presented to the purchasers of their paper this week. From the drawings made by Corporals Mack and Gardner, of the Royal Sappers and Miners, the tables are copied, showing the number and fluctuation of the visitors, and the money receipts throughout the time of the Exhibition being open. The tables are beautifully printed in colours, and the numbers and letterpress explanation are in clear good type. Many statistical facts, connected with the arrangements and manage ment of the Exhibition, are added in the margin the whole forming a record at once valuable and ornamental. We have already seen the chart such pended in commercial rooms, and in many public places, and have no doubt it will meet with the popularity which its interest deserves.

Mr. Gould has published the second Part of his beautiful monograph of Trochilida, or Humming n. 31

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Birds, in which the figures are grouped with exquisite taste, and the metallic colouring of the plumage imitated with increased success. We are rlad to hear that his magnificent collection of these birds is to be exhibited in the Zoological Gardens for another year.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS. Arnold's Second Greek Book, 12mo, cloth, 5s. 6d.

Handbook of Hebrew Antiquities, 12mo, cl., 4s.

Book of Familiar Quotations, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.

Common Prayer, 12mo, cloth, 4s.

Burns' Life and Works, Vol. 3, 12mo, cloth, 3s.

Burke's Works and Correspondence, Vol. 1, cloth, 12s.

Chowing's Self-Culture, 18mo, cloth, 1s.

Chambers's Educational Course: Latin Grammar, cl., 2s.

Child's Morning Book, 12mo, cloth, 2s. Child's Morning Book, 12mo, cloth, 2s. Christian Experience; a Memoir of Mrs. Hoare, 10s. 6d. Clarke's (B.) British Gazetteer, 3 vols. imperial 8vo, £4. Carstan Experience, a Method of Volta, Imperial Svo, £4.
Darien, 3 vols., new edition, £1 11s 6d.
Dav Spring; or, Diurnal of Youth, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
Dodd's Parliamentary Companion, 1852, 32mo, cl., 4s. 6d.
Dry Leaves from Young Egypt, 3rd edition, Svo, cloth, 22s.
Evening Thoughts, by a Physician, post Svo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
Excelsior; or, the Realms of Poesie, crown Svo, cloth, 6s.
Florist, 1852, Svo, cloth, 13s. 6d.
Foster's (B.) History of Priory and Gate of St. John, 5s.
Gurney's (Rev. A.) King Charles I., 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
Gutzlaff's (Rev. C.) Life of Taou-Kwang, post Svo, cl., 10s.
Heir of Ardennan, 3 vols., £1 11s. 6d.
History of England and France, Svo, cloth, 15s.
Knox's (Capt. C.) The Ark and the Deluge, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Lebahn's Key to German, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Lion of Flanders Album, oblong 4to, boards, 32s.
Macgregor's History of British Empire, from James I., 36s.
Martin Toutrond, 12mo, 1s.

Martin Toutrond, 12mo, 1s.

Men of the Time; or, Sketches of Living Notables, cl., 6s.

Militia Major, a Novel, 3 vols. post 8vo. £1 11s. 6d.

Moody's (Mrs.) Roughing it in the Bush, 2 vols., cl., 21s.

Murray's Official Handbook of Church and State, cl., 6s. Napier's (Mrs.) The Lays of the Palace, post 8vo, 2s. 6d. New Tales from Fairy Lands, illustrated, post 8vo, cl., 5s. Osdi's (M. F.) Memoirs, 3 vo.s. post 8vo, £1 11s. 6d. Overton's (Rev. C.) Cottage Lectures, Vol. 1, 12mo, 3s. 6d. Pinock's Analysis of Ecclesiastical History, 18mo, 3s. 6d. Pinock's Analysis of Ecclesiastical History, 18mo, 3s. 6d. Quakerism; or the Story of my Life, 12mo, cloth, 5s. Rockingham's (Marquis) Memoirs, 2 vols, 8vo, cloth, 30s. Schiller's Poems and Ballads, post 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d. State of Man subsequent to Christianity, 12mo, cl., 3s. 6d. Swete's (Rev. J.) Family Pravers, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d. Thirlwall's Greece, 8 vols.; Vol. 7, 8vo, cloth, 12s. Thomson's Conspectus, 18mo, cloth, 5s. 6d.; tuck, 6s. 6d. Traveller's Library, Part 14 & 15, 1s. each. Treasury Pleasure Books, 1st series, cl., 5s., coloured, 9s. —2nd series, cl., 5s., coloured, 9s. Trelawney's Evidence of Church Rates, cl., 2s., swd., 1s. 6d. Vidal's (Mrs. F.) Tales from the Bush, 4th edit., cl., 5s. Wake's Commentary on New Testament, Vol. 3, cl., 3s. 6d. Wall's History of the Skeleton of a Sperm Whale, cl., 5s. Year Book of Facts, 1852, 12mo, cloth, 5s. Napier's (Mrs.) The Lays of the Palace, post 8vo, 2s. 6d.

THE COLUMBUS MANUSCRIPT.

WE noticed last week the announcement in an American paper of the discovery on the African shore, near Mount Abylos, of a cedar keg, inclosing a letter of Columbus. Mr. D. Morier Evans has communicated to 'The Times' an extract from an old collection of voyages, in which it is stated that the admiral, during a storm on the 14th of February, 1493, did write an account on parchment of his discoveries, that some knowledge might come to their Catholic Majesties, Ferdinand and Isabella, of what has been done in their service. It was on his voyage homeward that this occurred, and on the 18th of the month the caraval came safely to anchor at St. Mary's, one of the Azores. When the admiral threw overboard the cask containing the parchment wrapped up in a piece of cere-cloth, the sailors thought it was some incantation, especially as the violence of the wind soon

We have ourselves received the following :-

"I was struck, like you, by the account in the "January 26th. newspapers of Captain D'Auberville's discovery of a letter from Columbus to Ferdinand and Isabella, which is noticed by you under the head of 'Topics of the Week, 'page 89, in last Saturday's 'Gazette,' and having an abridgment of his voyages, by William Mayor, LL.D., published by E. Newbery, St. Paul's Churchyard, in 1796, I find the following extract at the end of his first voyage :-

"Being in the greatest danger, he wrote a short account of his discoveries on two skins of parchment, which he wrapped in oil-cloth covered

with wax, and having enclosed them in two separate casks, committed them to the sea.'

"AN OLD SUBSCRIBER."

About the fact of Columbus having committed to the sea such a record of his discoveries there is no question, it being mentioned by himself, and in all accounts of his voyages. Our caution is as to the fact of such a record having been found, of which as yet there is no evidence beyond the paragraph in a Louisville newspaper. Every week brings some fresh specimens of the inventive genius of American editors, who vie with each other in the novelty or marvel of their ideal announcements. After reading the foregoing paragraph from Dr. Mavor's abridgment of the voyages of Columbus, the story could be easily made. It may be entirely true; but we are sorry to say that many of the 'facts' of American newspapers require to be con-firmed by other evidence. We shall look with interest for the arrival at some port of the American sea-captain with his treasure.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Professor Robinson, whose proposed expedition to Palestine we lately announced, is now at Berlin, and expects to be at Beyrout on the 1st of March. He intends to occupy most of his time in visiting the more remote districts of the country, and those villages off the usual routes, which are least known to travellers. Towards the completion of the topography and geography of Palestine, we may expect many new facts to be thus obtained. One of the American missionaries in Syria, the Rev. Eli Smith, and Mr. William Dickson, of Edinburgh, are to join Professor Robinson at Beyrout, and accompany him in the journey. The identification of the site of the Holy Sepulchre, about which there has been much dispute lately, is one object to which special attention will be given. Dr. Robinson was in London, on his route to the continent, and attended the meetings of the Geographical and other societies. We wish that the learned Professor could ascertain the genuineness of the Sinaitic inscriptions, of which, in reviewing Forster's 'One Primeval Language,' (p. 323, 1851,) we gave an account. Dr. Robinson has expressed great doubts on the subject, but if at all practicable during his journey, he would do good service both to science and religion by either verifying or disproving the conjectures raised by the hitherto imperfect examination of these remains.

The election of the Greek Professor in the Iniversity of Edinburgh is fixed for the 2nd of March. The number of candidates in the field is very large, but many will probably retire before the day of election. At present the struggle is supposed to be between Dr. William Smith, of New College, London, the learned author of the Classical Dictionaries; Dr. Price, late of Rugby, the friend of Dr. Arnold; Professor Macdowall, of Queen's College, Belfast; and Professor Blackie, of Aberdeen. The emoluments of the chair are upwards of 800l., and the college duties extend only over about half the year, during the winter session, from November to May. The Town-Council of Edinburgh, thirty-three in number, as patrons of the University, are the electors. The magistrates and councillors have generally been noted for the admirable way in which their university patronage has been exercised, -a board so numerous, and under popular control, being little exposed to the private influences by which college appointments are too often determined. Another security for right patronage lies in the prosperity of the town being so much involved in that of the University. There is little doubt, therefore, of the choice in this case being made according to the qualifications of the candidates as brought before the Council by printed testimonials and otherwise.

The Queen's College, Birmingham, has obtained the royal assent to a supplemental charter, by which important privileges are granted in connexion with the Institution. To encourage the mining and manufacturing interest, it is enacted by this charter, that engineers' diplomas under the seal of the College are to be granted to students

after the three years' study of a prescribed course, and an examination satisfactory to a board. Two members of 'The Institution of Mechanical Engineers,' and two members of 'The Architectural Society of Birmingham,' elected by their respective societies previously to the annual meeting of the Governors of Queen's College, are to be members of the council of the College. Two members of 'The Law Society of Birmingham' are also to be members of the council. For the theological department a committee of council is appointed, comprising the Principal, Vice-Principal, Warden, Treasurer, and Dean of Faculty of the College; also the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Dean of the Cathedral of Worcester, the Archdeacon of Coventry, and the Rectors of the parishes of St. Martin and of St. Philip, Birmingham. By the privileges of this supplemental charter the efficiency of the College will be greatly extended, and the cause of education in the Midland Counties

The Austrian government has recently ordered all foreign missionaries to leave the country. At Pesth, in Hungary, there was an institution supported by the Free Church of Scotland, chiefly for operations among the large Jewish population of the district. The missionaries not only gave religious instruction, but also had flourishing schools, and their medical advice was widely valuable to the poor. With politics they had never meddled, and during the war of independence they remained at their posts, unmolested, and respected by all parties for their piety and usefulness. Since the success of the French dictatorship, the rigour of persecution in all despotic countries has been increased. The Scottish missionaries were ordered within six days to quit Hungary, and are now in this country. The order was issued within a few days after the news arrived of the dismissal of Lord

Palmerston. The long proceedings in the lunacy inquest case of Mrs. Cumming are not yet brought to a close. Counsel's opinion, signed by Messrs. Edwin James, Wilkins, and Southgate, advises proceedings to be instituted for traversing the inquisition, on the ground of the verdict being manifestly against the evidence, and submitting the case to a new jury. The jury, after 16 days' trial, had brought in a verdiet of insanity, dated from May 1st, 1846. Mr. Wilkins, in his defence, occupied two days, his speech being upwards of twelve hours in the delivery. Sir F. Thesiger's speech for the family

was also of unusual length.

Mr. Walters, M.P. for Nottingham, has this week delivered at the Mechanics' Hall of that town, a lecture on 'The Life and Death of Socrates.' Having being asked by the Committee of the Mechanics' Institute to deliver a lecture during the session, he referred to them the choice of the subject, as being more acquainted with the taste of the audience. They must be a strange people at Nottingham, intelligent enough to delight in the philosophy of Socrates, and simple enough to be the dupes of Feargus O'Connor! Mr. Walters' lecture was listened to with earnest attention, and the satisfaction of the crowded auditory was testified by frequent applause. By this personal assistance, as well as by his influential patronage, Mr. Walters has done good service to the Institution, which seems to be in a flourishing state.

The new American correspondent of 'The Times' states that he "has within the last week read upwards of one thousand different American newspapers, and the general tendency is unquestionably towards intervention in European affairs." Towards the close of his communication, the writer sees the steam of the Pacific up, and a start imminent, yet he continues to sit coolly at his desk, in order, he says, "to give you the latest telegraphic flashes, and then take the letter to the steamer." What a glimpse we have in these few lines of political activity, and of literary 'cuteness, across the Atlantic! Only think of upwards of one thousand different newspapers in a week! At the lowest computation this American correspondent, with his numerous other avocations, can read one newspaper every five minutes, all the day long, every

day of the week. And who can tell, besides, the number of the unwritten, unprinted telegraphic flashes?

The inhabitants of Boston, in the United States, are constructing a fire-alarm telegraph. Fortynine miles of wire have been stretched over the city, diving under the arm of the sea which separates the main portion from South and East Boston. The first of the forty cast-iron signal boxes has been placed on the reservoir in Hancock-street. These will be so distributed that every house in the city will be within fifty rods of one. Whenever a fire occurs resort will be had to the nearest box, when, by turning a crank, instantaneous communication will be made to the central office, and from that-which stands related to the whole fire department of the city, like the brain to the nervous system—instant knowledge will be communicated to the seven districts into which the city is divided, by so striking the alarm bell simultaneously, that the locality of the fire will be known exactly to all.

In the Scotch law courts a case has been decided having some historical interest. Boswell-Johnson's Bozzy-secured, as he thought, the estate of Auchinleck, by strict entail to his family in male descent, and congratulated himself on the manner in which his arrangements were perfected. The present proprietor, Sir James Boswell, having no sons, but several daughters, tried to get the entail set aside, and has succeeded, part of an important word in the deed being written on an erasure, and therefore not provable at law. In Boswell's Johnson (1775-6), some notices will be found about Auchinleck and its entail. The word, the first part of which is written on an erasure, is irredeemably, and no reference being made to this in the testing clause, the deed has been declared invalid for securing the entail.

The President of the French Republic, on the report of the Minister of Public Instruction, has appointed M. Jules Taschereau, ex-representative, to be assistant-director of the Bibliothèque Nationale, specially charged to superintend and direct the drawing up of the catalogue of that establishment. We hope that the successful prosecution of this work may prove an additional stimulus to the preparation of our own British Museum Library Catalogue.

We lately noticed an instance of well-directed liberality in the gift of an assistant-surgeonship in the Hon. East India Company's service to a student of King's College Hospital; General Cauldfield, another director, has put a similar appointment at the disposal of Sir Benjamin Brodie for one of the students of St. George's Hospital, and by him the appointment has been committed to the Weekly Board.

A monument has been erected in the churchyard of South Leith church, to the memory of Robert Gilfillan. The pillar bears a profile of the poet, with national and masonic ornaments, he having been at his death grand bard of the Scottish lodges. The inscription bears the date of his birth, 4th July, 1798; of his death, 4th Dec., 1850; and that the monument is erected in testimony "of his worth as a man, and his genius as a writer of Scottish song." Mr. Handyside Ritchie is the sculptor.

Baron d'Ohson died recently at Stockholm, aged 73. He was a member of the Academy of Sciences, and President of the Royal Society of Literature in that city. He was one of the most eminent Oriental scholars of the day, and author, amongst other things, of an important work on the peoples of Caucasus, and of a valuable history of Chinese Tartary. He was born at Constantinople, of Armenian parents, but was educated at Paris. He became secretary to Bernadotte, accompanied him to Sweden, and subsequently fulfilled several diplomatic missions to Paris, London, &c.

Lord Brougham read this week before the Academy of Sciences a paper on various Optical and Mathematical Researches carried on at Cannes. We are glad to observe that M. Arago is now so far recovered as to have been present at the meeting.

The Rev. Mr. Stockfleth, who is distinguished for his knowledge of the Lappish dialects, is at pre-

sent engaged as a missionary in Lapland, under the auspices of the Norwegian church.

We observe it publicly announced that Mr. Ainsworth, the eminent Oriental traveller, is about to proceed to Australia, under the direction of the Victoria Gold Mining Company, on a mission to explore geologically the gold districts of Port Philip.

Lieutenant Pim has, we believe, returned to this country from his fruitless journey to St. Petersburgh, the Siberian overland expedition in search of Sir John Franklin being abandoned.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL. — Jan. 27th. — Professor Bell, F.R.S., in the chair. The Secretary exhibited on the part of Captain Stokes, R.N., the eggs of the Kakapo (Strigops), and of the Weka (Ocydromus), obtained in the Middle Island, New Zealand, during the surveying voyage of H.M.S. Acheron, and now first made known to zoologists; Mr. Gould exhibited a remarkable variety of Ocydromus australis, differing from both the specimens of that bird now living in the menagerie of the Society; Mr. Lovell Reeve contributed a paper on some new species of Paludomus, a genus of fresh-water shells, collected in a branch of the Ganges; and the following paper was read by Professor Owen:-" Notes on the Egg and Young of the Apteryx, and on the casts of the Eggs and certain Bones of Epyornis." The Secretary placed upon the table casts of two eggs, and of portions of the leg-bones of a gigantic bird of the Island of Madagascar, which had been presented by the Administration of the Garden of Plants in Paris, and on these Professor Owen made the following observations. The casts were beautifully made and coloured, and were exact representations of the originals, which the Professor had examined during a visit to Paris in July last. These were received at the Garden of Plants in January last, and were described this day twelvemonth, in a communication made by M. Isidore Geoffrey St. Hilaire to the Academy of Sciences. They had been obtained by the master of a merchantman at the Island of Madagascar in 1850, from the natives, who stated that one of the eggs had been found, entire, in the bed of a torrent, amongst the debris of a land-slip; a second egg, with some fragments of bone, was subsequently found in a formation which is stated to be alluvial; a third egg, which the natives had perforated at one end, and used as a vessel, was also obtained. This egg was fractured in the carriage, the other two eggs arrived entire. They are nearly of the same size, but differ in shape, one being shorter, but a little thicker, and with more equal ends than the other. The following are admeasurements of these eggs and of an ostrich's egg:-

| Greatest circumference. | Feet. in. lines. | feet. in. lines. | Lengthwise | 2 10 9 | 1 6 0 | Breadthwise | 2 4 3 | 1 4 6 | Extreme length in a | straight line | 1 0 8 | 0 6 4

M. Isidore Geoffroy estimates the larger of the two eggs to contain 101 quarts, or the contents of nearly 6 eggs of the ostrich, or 16 of the cassowary, or 148 of the hen, or 50,000 eggs of the humming bird. The portions of bones, of which casts were exhibited, consist of the lower end of the right and left metatarsal bones, and the upper end of the right fibula. These are nearly equal in size to the corresponding parts of the skeleton of the Dinornis. From the obvious differences which M. Geoffroy found on comparing these fragments with the casts of the metatarsus of the Dinornis giganteus, he has inferred with much probability not only the specific but generic distinction of the bird of Madagascar, and has proposed for it the name of Epyornis maximus. This distinction is illustrated not only by the metatarsal bones, but by the eggs themselves. Mr. Walter Mantell, of Wellington, New Zealand, has recorded his observation of an egg of a Dinornis found in the volcanic sand, of the magnitude of which he endeavours to give an idea, by stating that his hat would have been but large enough to have served as an egg-cup

for it. The fragments of the egg of Dinornia or Palapteryx-of what species, of course, cannot be determined-show, after arriving approximatively at their size by the curve of the fragments, that the shell was not only absolutely thinner, but relatively much thinner than in the ostrich, and à fortiori than in the Epyornis. The air-pores, also have a different form, being linear, not rounded and the external surface is smoother. In the smoothness and thinness of the shell the egg of the Dinornis resembles that of the Apteryx. In the thickness of the shell, and the comparative rough ness of its exterior, the egg of the *Epyornis* more resembles that of the ostrich and cassowary. Such colour-a dull greyish yellow, as the originals of the eggs of the Epyornis now at Paris showmay well have been derived from the recent alluvial soil in which it is stated that they were discovered; the darker stain on one part of the circumference of the larger egg seems to have been due to some accidental circumstance. Most probably they were originally white, like the eggs of the ostrich and like the fragments of the eggs of the Dinornis; whether an original green tint, like that of the egg of the emu and cassowary, would be wholly discharged by long continuance in the soil, may be a question. It is most probable that the entire eggs of the Epyornis were excluded in the usual fertile state, but had suffered such want or interruption of the heat requisite for their incubation as to have become addled.

How hazardous it is to judge of the size of a bird by that of its egg would appear, Professor Owen observed, by the remarks which he should next proceed to offer on the eggs of the Apteryx. Of these the Professor exhibited one entire specimen, and a nearly fully incubated chick from a second egg, both of which have been most liberally transmitted to him by the Rev. William Cotton, M.A., from the North Island of New Zealand. Had it not been for the demonstration afforded by the chick itself, it might well have been doubted whether so small a bird could have excluded so large an egg. The following are the

dimensions of the egg:

The egg presents the usual long oval form; the colour a dull dirty greyish white; but this is partly due to grease-stains, from the decomposition of an incompletely-hatched chick, with its yolk, within. Viewed under a moderately magnifying power, the surface presents a very fine fibrous or spicular character, the raised lines, like spicular crossing in opposite directions, with air-pores scattered here and there, and barely perceptible to the naked eye. The shell is not more than one-eighth of a line in thickness. Supposing, as is most probable from a comparison of the bones, that the £pyornis did not equal in size the Dinornia giganteus, then the egg of the £pyornis would be smaller in proportion to the bird than the egg of the Apteryx is.

The embryo Apteryx which had been removed from its shell had nearly reached the term of its incubation, the yolk-bag being reduced to a hernia-like appendage of an inch in length and half an inch in breadth. The whole body was clothed by downfascicles, presenting the appearance of moderately thick cylindrical hairs, one inch and a half in length, with a smooth unbroken exterior, gradually tapering to a fine point. This smooth surface is due to an extremely delicate capsule, which when torm open exposes the down tuft, consisting of a central stem, with slender smooth barbs, from three to five lines in length, diverging loosely from each side of

stem.		17-06	
	in.	lines.	
ength of the body from the base of]	4	0	
the beak to the tail	1	7	
length of the leg from the knee-joint	4	3	
length of the freely projecting part of	0	6	
the fore-limb from the elbow-joint.			

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From these dimensions it would be seen that, with the characteristic large size of the unhatched young in the genus Apteryx, the chief peculiarities of the remarkable external form of the bird had been acquired. The feet were very completely formed with well developed claws, the small back claw presenting its characteristic proportions, and the integument of the naked part of the foot its well-marked scutation. The little wing-rudiments had their terminal hook. The tail presented the form of a short bifid prominence. The beak, being comparatively soft, had become distorted and bent in the bottle of spirits in which the specimen was transmitted to the Professor, but it showed its characteristic shape, the terminal nostrils, and the slight terminal expansion, which forms the end of the crutch in the mature bird. The eyelids, with their cilia, and the orifice of the ear, opening obliquely upwards, were rather larger in proportion than in the adult, according to the usual law of the precocious development of those organs of sense; and the same remark applies to the entire cranium. The neck is relatively shorter and thicker. The young bird must be excluded unusually well developed, with a complete clothing very like that of the parent, and capable of using its limbs and beak for its own safety and support.

Antiquaries.—Jan. 22nd.—Sir Robert H. Inglis, Bart., V.P., in the chair. The chairman proposed for election, Vice-Admiral the Earl Cadogan, who, being a peer of the realm, was at once balloted for, and elected a Fellow of the Society. The Rev. George Hodson, of Worcester, was also elected a Fellow. Mr. Adey Repton presented to the Society's museum, two iron instruments, called 'Catchpoles,' contrived for seizing thieves, of which an account was published by him in the 22nd volume of the 'Archæologia.' Mr. Roach Smith exhibited drawings of Frank arms and pottery, discovered in a cemetery at Envermeu, in Normandy, by the Abbé Cochet. Mr. Smith also exhibited a drawing of a head which he supposed to be that of a Dea Mater, found some time since at Birdoswald, near Newcastle. Mr. Gooding exhibited a leaden seal, with the figures of the Virgin and Child, the legend of which was undecypherable. Captain Smyth, V.P., exhibited a bronze hair-pin, surmounted with a white bead about the size of a pea, which had been found some time since in forming the works of the railway at Bicester. The reading of the Astronomer Royal's Memoir, "On the place of Julius Cæsar's departure from Gaul for the Invasion of Britain, and the place of his landing in Britain," was resumed and concluded. This memoir is divided into three sections. Professor Airy commences by observing, that all former writers on this interesting subject - D'Anville among them-had been content with some one passage in Cæsar's account. D'Anville, relying on a supposed expression of Cæsar, concludes that his passage to the island from the place of his departure was thirty miles, and supposes the port from which the Romans set out was Wissant. But the bay of Wissant is a sandy beach, four miles long, and nearly straight, the radius of its curvature being about five miles, and the headlands of Grisnez and Blanc Nez jutting out but little beyond the line of beach. Such a bay was totally unfitted for the armament of Cæsar, and it is highly improbable that he would have neglected such harbours as the estuary of the Somme, or those of the Authie, the Canche, and Boulogne. The latter, as well as Calais, were much too circumscribed for Casar's purpose. The estuaries of the Authie or the Canche might have been available; but the e must have been preferable to either. It is at its mouth three miles wide, protected by headlands, and dry at low water, which by no means unfitted it for the flat-bottomed boats of the Romans. Its capabilities may be estimated, when it is remembered that William the Conqueror set sail from it for England, at one tide, with fourteen hundred ships, carying sixty thousand men. The writer then passes in review several passages in the 'Commentaries' of Casar, and comes to the conclusion that the portus Itius, or Iccius, is the

estuary of the Somme. The second section of the memoir discusses the voyage of Cæsar, and the place of his landing. In this section alone, Mr. Airy remarks, has he derived any hint from previous writers. To Dr. Halley he is indebted for an explanation of the connexion of the high tide which proved so dangerous to Cæsar's galleys, and the current which aided him in throwing his forces on shore. But Halley appears to have been misled by local information. The time of high water along the coast from the Somme to Boulogne is, at full moon, about 11h. 20m. Capt. Beechy, who has surveyed the English Channel under the command of the Board of Admiralty, reports that at the full and change of the moon the stream runs to the westward at Dover; at a mile and a half distance from the shore, 3h. 10m. At Hastings, close in shore, the stream turns to the west, at 11h.; but is later further from the land. At five miles' distance the stream runs to the west at 1h. All this is, however, affected by the wind. stream runs to the west for about 6½h., when there is slack water for a quarter of an hour. From this account it may be inferred, that on the day of Cæsar's landing, the tide off Dover turned to the west about 1h., P.M., and that at 3h. it would be running strong in that direction. Cæsar, under such circumstances, would not have attempted a landing at Dover, as has been maintained by former writers. By dropping down with the tide about eight miles, he would have reached Folkestone, where similar difficulties would have been encountered, for it is certain that at this spot there is no "level and open shore." Similar difficulties would not have presented themselves at a lower point; but the localities most favourable for such a landing as that described by Cæsar were St. Leonard's and Pevensey, and at one of these, it is Mr. Airy's belief, the Romans effected a landing. The third section is devoted to the progress of Cæsar after landing. This, the writer contends, could not have been from Deal or Dover to the Stour, but through Sussex. Wooded and arable land might have been traversed by the Romans in that direction; but had they landed at Deal, the country around would have been chalk downs. In those passages of the Commentaries' which describe the second invasion of Britain, mention is often made of forests, which could not have been seen near Deal, and it is plain that Cæsar's march was up to the Thames, instead of parallel with it. From these deductions it appears that Cæsar landed on both occasions in or near the neighbourhood of Pevensey level. An appendix on the Battle of Hastings followed. It was suggested to Mr. Airy after an examination of the localities in Sussex, which had been visited for the purpose of testing his theory as to the line of Cæsar's march. He shows that the position chosen by Harold would, if it had been maintained for two or three days only, have forced the invaders to a surrender; but tempted by a feigned flight from their vantage ground, the Saxons fell into the snare, and the flower of their army perished.

Geological.—Jan. 21st.—W. Hopkins, Esq., President, in the chair. The following communications were read:-1. "On the Sub-escarpments of the Ridgway Range, and their Contemporaneous Deposits in the Isle of Portland," by C. H. Weston, Esq., F.G.S. In this paper the author showed that the beds of the Purbeck formation, capping the Corton and Whaddon Range at the foot of the Chalk Escarpment of Ridgway, extend westward as far as Portisham,—that the entire valley of Upway, separating the Ridgway from the Corton range, although disturbed, is yet one of denudation, and not a synclinal trough, as hitherto considered,—and that the Purbeck beds on the south side of the anticlinal axis of this district do not terminate at the centre of the Isle of Portland, but exist also at the Bill, its most southerly point. 2. "On the Quartz Rock of the North of Scotland," by D. Sharpe, Esq., F.R.S. After detailing the results of a careful examination of several districts in the Highlands, the author proceeded to point out that the quartz rock of the Highlands must be divided between two most distinct classes of

rocks-1st. A foliated rock allied to gneiss, with which it may be classified without requiring a separate colour on our geological maps, or a distinct name in our nomenclature. 2nd. A stratified rock of sedimentary origin, altered from sandstone into a more or less homogeneous quartz rock by plutonic action, as in the now well-understood cases of the Stiper Stones and the Lickey. In considering to what formation of sandstone we are to refer the metamorphic quartz rocks, we must recollect (observes the author) that as yet we know of no sandstone in any part of the Highlands older than the Old Red Sandstone; that this formation is more than equal in thickness to the quartz rock; and that the more modern sandstones play an insignificant part in those districts, having only been observed at a few places on the coast. It seems, therefore, reasonable to refer the whole of the quartz rock to the Old Red Sandstone, especially as the quartz rock of Sutherland and Ross-shire undoubtedly belongs to that formation; and the similarity of character, and the frequent occurrence of limestone in the same part of the series, are strong arguments for connecting all the stratified quartz rocks together. The change in character between the lower beds of quartz rock, alternating with micaceous schist, and the upper part, which is almost exclusively siliceous, corresponds with what we should expect to find in a crystallized Old Red Sandstone, of which the lower division is composed in part of argillaceous beds, fit to furnish the micaceous schist, and the next division contains very little argillaceous matter. The masses of quartz rock which harmonise least with this arrangement are those of Schiehallion, Ben Gloe, and the Scarabins. If we leave these in suspense, and only admit that the rest of the stratified quartz rocks belong to the Old Red Sandstone, it will still follow, from the position of the various masses described by the author, that the Old Red formation must have covered the southern portion of the Highland, at least as far up as the Grampians.

Society of Arts.—Jan. 28th.—I. K. Brunel, Vice-President, in the chair. Rev. Professor Willis, F.R.S., 'On Tools and Machines for working in Wood, Iron, and other Materials.' The lecturer commenced by remarking, that the portion of the Great Exhibition which had been allotted to him differed considerably from those which had been already treated of. Every one is conversant more or less with raw materials, or with the products artificially derived from them; but little is known of, and small interest taken in, the processes by which the change is made. His Royal Highness, Prince Albert, in proposing these lectures, had expressed his desire that each lecturer should state his opinion of the excellencies or deficiencies of the Great Exhibition freely and without reserve; and he should therefore say that machines concerned in the processes of manufacture had not been well represented in the Exhibition. He hoped that two good results might be hoped for from the influence of the Exhibition on this particular department. 1. A more intimate union between scientific and practical men. 2. A closer connexion between the workmen of different trades; so that a man of one trade should have a knowledge of the processes, not only of his own, but of other kindred trades. The Professor then exposed the fallacy of the contempt often entertained by practical selftaught men for those who are scientific and theoretical. No doubt the scientific man gives occasion for the charges which are brought against him; his object is to show in action the principles he is enforcing, and he therefore chooses as his examples machines of the simplest kind, exciting on that account the contempt of the practical mechanist. The exceeding jealousy existing between manufacturers of machines and tools is very much to be deplored. By preventing the open adoption of one another's improvements, a great impediment is put in the way of the perfection of machinery, whilst the secret piracy that so often takes place increases the jealousy and distrust. Combined with this is the intricacy of the patent laws, which prevent a step being taken in any direction without treading

on another man's toes. In other practical sciences this jealousy and distrust do not exist; the great discoveries of Faraday are at once adopted and followed up by his fellow-labourers in the same path. Professor Willis then explained, by means of his admirable models, the principles of the action of the chief machines for 'the shaping and confection of brute material.' These models, or 'geometrical diagrams,' which are not only contrived, but also made by Mr. Willis, are those used by him in the illustration of his lectures as Jacksonian Professor to the University of Cambridge. Their frames are of card-board ingeniously jointed, so as to be exceedingly stiff when put together, and yet capable of very speedy and easy transformation. The working parts are of iron and brass, of simple forms, capable of being repeated in all the different models of the series. Professor Willis explained at length the mode of their construction, in the hope that it might enable others to make them. Shaping-machines are of three kinds, lathes, planing-machines, slotting-machines. The use of machines for shaping the parts of other machines originated with the watch-makers in the course of last century; and the first manufacture in which they were employed was that of Bramah's locks. This was followed by Brunel's block machinery. The lathe is the most ancient shaping-machine. The planing-machine was invented on account of the difficulty of making a flat surface in the lathe, the different velocities of the different parts of the surface preventing an advantageous cut being taken. The Society of Arts, in 1827, rewarded Mr. Clements for an ingenious lathe, in which this was overcome, by reducing the speed of the work as the tool travelled outwards; but the planingmaching was invented at the same time and super-seded it. The slotting-machine originated in the tool invented by the late Sir I. Brunel for mortising the holes of blocks.

CIVIL ENGINEERS. - Jan. 20th. - J. M. Rendel, Esq., President, in the chair. The paper read was "On the Alluvial Formations, and the Local Changes, of the South-Eastern Coast of England. Second section,—from Beachy Head to Portland," by Mr. J. B. Redman, M. Inst. C.E. Westward of Beachy Head the effects produced by local variations in the beach were traced,—the 'fulls' tailing across the outfall of Cuckmere Haven, and driving the outlet eastward, creating a barrier of beach at Seaford,-at an early period the outfall of Newhaven Harbour,-where an ancient outlet existed on the site of the present entrance, subsequently projected eastward, by the passage of shingle from the westward, until rendered permanent by piers. The recent degradation of the shore along Seaford Bay, from the shingle being arrested to the westward, and the unavailing attempt to stop this movement by blasting the cliff at Seaford Head, were noticed. The waste of the coast at Rotting-dean, the modern changes at Brighton, the great variations in the outlet of Shoreham Harbour, until rendered permanent by artificial works, were examined, as well as the analogous effects on the coast generally at Pagham, across the entrance of which a spit had been formed, similar to those at the ancient harbours of Romney and Pevensey. The anchorage of the Park, off Selsey Bill, once presumed to have been a portion of the site of a Bishop's See, prior to its removal to Chichester, owing to the progressive waste of the shore. At the back of the Isle of Wight, the peculiarities of the land-locked harbours, and the protection afforded by the shore defences to Portsmouth harbour, so little altered in its general outline since the time of Henry VIII., were described, as also the remarkable promontory called Hurst Point, many of the characteristics of which were similar to those of the Chesil Bank, Calshot Point, and other formations, such as a low, flat shore to leeward (eastward), and a highly inclined beach seaward, with a tendency to curve round to the northward and eastward, and eventually to enclose a tidal mere or estuary. The elevation and size of the pebbles increased towards the extremity of these points, and in places on the sea slope an in-

termixture of coarse sand and shingle, which had become solid and homogeneous by age, cropped out through the modern beach. The remaining portion of the coast of Hampshire, and that of Dorsetshire, as far as Wyemouth, were then minutely described, and the paper concluded with a parti-cular account of the Chesil Bank, which in magnitude far exceeded all other formations of the kind, and which, it was considered, might be attributed to the waste of the great West Bay. Numerous diagrams, compiled from ancient and modern maps, together with sections and sketches of the various alluvial spits along the coast, were exhibited, and it was shown that all these local accumulations had many features in common, and were subject to the same alternating effects of loss and gain, and were the resultant of causes in constant operation, the whole exercising a most important influence on harbour and marine engineering generally. A short account of Mr. Deane's submarine researches on the Shambles Shoal, off the Bill of Portland, was read, describing that shoal to consist entirely of a bed of small broken shells, arranged in parallel shelves, or steps, instead of, as had been supposed, being formed of boulders and pebbles. This peculiar arrangement of light shells, at depths varying from four to nine fathoms, must be the result of the action of the currents forming a spot comparatively without motion, and induced curious speculations as to the cause of the accumulation, and the effects that might be produced on milar aggregations by artificial works.

Asiatic.—Jan. 10th.—Professor Wilson read a paper by R. T. H. Griffith, Esq., "On the Figures of Indian Poetical Rhetoric, as Illustrated in the Bhatti Kavya." The work bearing this title is an epic poem, composed in the silver age of Sanskrit literature, for the purpose of illustrating, by example, the rules of grammar, poetry, and rhetoric. Though written with this object, the poem also merits attention for its comparative antiquity, and for its classic purity and elegance of style, while at the same time it possesses passages of great descriptive power and poetical merit. It consists of twenty-two books, in two divisions,—'The Illustration of Grammar,' and 'The Illustration of Poetry and Rhetoric.' A subdivision of the latter is entitled 'Alankara, or Embellishment;' which subject is again divided into 'Embellishment of Sound,' and 'Embellishment of Matter.' former, comprising rhyme and alliteration, has been already illustrated by Dr. Yates; but the latter, containing the figures of poetical rhetoric, has hitherto remained unnoticed by European writers. A large portion of the tenth book of the poem is devoted to this subject, a single stanza being given to each figure, and to each of its varieties. This part of the poem Mr. Griffith has successfully rendered into English metre, imitating, as far as possible, the style and manner of the original, so as to exhibit the peculiar figure which each stanza was intended to illustrate; and has accompanied the translation with a commentary explanatory of the various figures, the terms by which they are designated, and the way in which they are classified; presenting a careful and interesting picture of the elaborate care which the Sanskrit poets bestowed upon their productions, and of the very minute and searching criticism to which poetry and rhetoric were subjected. The extraordinary difficulties attending the translation of such a work into another language than the varied and copious one of the original, would be sufficient to excuse a very inferior version than that produced by the learned author of the paper.

The following gentlemen were elected into the Society: - Charles Fraser, Esq.; Major H. W. Trevelyan; J. F. M. Reid, Esq.; Col. D. Capon; J. W. Bosanquet, Esq.; and the Abbé Van

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday .- Royal Institution, 4 p.m .- (C. B. Mansfield, Esq., on the Chemistry of the Metals.)

Entomological, 8 p.m.

Chemical, 8 p.m.
School of Mines-(Natural History, 1 p.m.)-(Mining, 3 p.m.)

Tuesday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. T. W. Jone on Animal Physiology.)

Linnean, 8 p.m. Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Mr. W. B. Adams, on Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Mr. W. B. Adams, ce the Construction and Duration of the Perms nent Way of Railways, and the modifications most suitable for Eygpt, India, &c.; when the monthly ballot for Members will take place.)
 Pathological, 8 p.m.
 School of Mines—(Mechanics, 11 a.m.)—(Metallurgy, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)
 Wednesday.—Royal Institution, 4 p.m.—(C. B. Mansfield, Esq., on the Chemistry of the Metals.)
 Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(James Glaisher, Esq. F.R.S., on Philosophical Instruments and Processes.)

Geological, 8½ p.m.—(D. Sharpe, Esq., on the Southern Borders of the Highlands.—Sir R.1 Murchison, on the Predicted Discovery of Gold in Australia.—The Rev. W. B. Clarke, on the Discovery of Gold Alluvia in Australia.)

School of Mines—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Minetrology, 3 p.m.)

ralogy, 3 p.m.)
-Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Rev. J. Barlow, at the Physical Principles of the Steam Engine) Thursday,

Royal, 8½ p.m.

Antiquaries, 8 p.m.

Zoological, 3 p.m.—(General business.)
School of Mines.—(Mechanics, 11 a.m.)—(Metalurgy, 1 p.m.)—(Mineralogy, 3 p.m.)

Royal Institution, 8½ p.m.—(Mr. Scott Russell, and Wave-line Yachts and Ships.)

Friday.-

Archæological Institute, 4 p.m.

Botanical, 8 p.m. Philological, 8 p.m.

School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Natura History, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.) -Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Brande, a

some of the Arts connected with Organi Chemistry.)

Asiatic, 2 p.m. Medical, 8 p.m.

FINE ARTS.

AMIDST the almost universal dearth of objects novelty in the circle of the Fine Arts which prevails at this season, a most agreeable resource presented to connoisseurs in the collection of Mr Grundy, who has again opened his rooms at 130 Regent-street, for the purpose of a Winter Exhibit tion. The great advantage of this gallery la hitherto been, that whilst the water-colour societies exclude from their walls the productions of Royal Academicians, the public has here an opportunity of seeing their works side by side with those of the exclusive professors of the art in colours. On the present occasion recent works by members of the Academy are not so numerous as to furnish mean for this examination to a great degree: some works however, there are, from which a comparison may be instituted. Another indisputable advantage Mr. Grundy's collection is, that the recent picture are generally sent in fresh from the artist's studie and new acquisitions from day to day are filling the vacancies occasioned by sale; and thus evidence is afforded-certain, if not very extensive of the tendency of forthcoming styles, and the progress of execution up to the present date. Along with what is recent, there are not wanting, als specimens of some years' standing from old as well-reputed names-a circumstance which secure high character and good tone to the exhibiting generally. Thus, taking the water-colour depart ment first, we find a drawing of Tivoli, by J. I W. Turner, executed about twenty-five years & with all that accuracy and unhesitating firms that characterizes his early works. This is by means suggestive of his large picture of the name, and indeed presents no features of imagine tive composition; but the perfect regularity of tone, the transparency of sky, and the treatment of the foam and mist of the falling cataract, mas fest plainly enough the hand of the great masse The only oil painting in the lower room is a val of Terracina, by Clarkson Stanfield, a most freshing sea piece, displaying his vast knowled of effect and skill in treatment: indeed, it may considered almost a model painting, as exhibit the use of those easily recognised principles beauty in composition, the practice of which read the works of this artist the most scientific lands of the present day. This picture, though in is mounted, by way of experiment, like a cold drawing, and has a remarkably pleasing appearance. ance. Amongst the older names is that of Us R.A., a sketch of the Bay of Naples, drawn Perma-cations

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unusual finish: some countrywomen, children, and a friar, grouped in front, exhibit all the ease of modern life, with an arrangement that strongly suggests the recollection of an antique frieze. There are also two sketches, rather interesting than important, of Wilkie-one illustrating the ballad of Duncan Gray. Far different from the preceding in style is a very careful drawing by Midi, after Ary Scheffer, representing Faust and Margaret. This is a subject grouped with all the intense force of moral contrast which the artist could throw into such a scene. Mephistopheles, on the right of Faust, appears to envelop him in the inextricable and mysterious folds of his mantle. On the left stands the image of the forlorn girl, with her dead infant in her arms-a treatment which many a hasty sight-seer will deem painful, but which appears to us beyond praise, for its profound appreciation of the wonderful tale, its force of narration, and even for those fugitive graces of the imagination which have been transferred from the poem to the canvas in a manner to be seen but not described. This drawing appears to have been intended for engraving, and to be admirably

We proceed to the more regular and established school of landscape colour; and amongst the first is to be noticed a Harvest Field, by David Cox. in his old and careful manner; the scene apparently in Wales, with mountains behind, a middle distance particularly rich and lovely, and some figures gracefully introduced in the foreground-altogether an almost faultless drawing, and having the additional merit of great care in the working up. Another sketch, by the same artist, Market Carts crossing a Heath, is an illustration of some of his favourite effects. A drawing by Copley Fielding displays some charming light and shade in the middle distance, marred, however, by a cloud of doubtful colour above. Another by the same, Near Worthing, deserves attention.

The well-known and favourite style of Prout is represented by an elaborate drawing of Bruges, another of Caen in Normandy, which aims at pictorial effect in sky and clouds; a third In Switzerland. Some beautiful works of S. B. Pyne also exhibit his invariable use of combinations of half-tints, occasionally, as in some of the present instances, degenerating into something like weakness in the foregrounds. Very high praise must be accorded to two sketches by William Callow, particularly to one of Orleans, where the attention of the spectator is cleverly arrested to one prominent part of the drawing, suggested by a contrast of clear river water seen behind some dark objects in front; and the effect of air and smoke under the cathedral towers is well given, the details of the picture being clear enough for identification, without distracting the eye from the central point of vision. Another sketch, Venice, is also admirable, but rather deficient in interest amongst the boats and figures close at hand. Mr. J. Callow has also produced two excellent sea-pieces, the colour of which is, however, in parts too intense. Mr. Frank Stone exhibits two drawings of grouped figures, executed with all the elegance and finish for which his works are celebrated.

George Cattermole has again chosen, for the subjects of his spirited groups, incidents from the life of the middle ages. The Combat is one of the most stirring of his passages of love and war. Two exquisite fragments of that long admired artist, R. P. Bonnington, are here, and some admirable landscapes by W. C. Smith, whose drawing is always masterly; Col. Williams, who is not always uniform; H. J. Boddington, excellent in leafage; G. Chambers, principally sea scenery; W. Oliver, Charles Davidson, Collingwood, Oldfield, T. S. Robinson, and others. E. Duncan has a remarkably clever sketch of a Swiss market-place; Vacher, two highly-coloured Italian subjects; Rowbotham, a life-like view of Frankfort; E. B. Boulton, some American scenery; and T. S. Boys, a picturesque corner in Chester. A picture, by Mrs. Criddle, of The Dying Sailor, is admirable as to the figure and dress of the girl; the bit of land-

we have Mrs. Harrison, whose colours unite depth with great delicacy; Mr. Lance, who evinces far more talent in this, his own sphere, than in his treatment of a Smuggler's Head; and, lastly, Mr. Hunt. A figure of a London boy, by Mr. Hine, shows much spirit and cleverness. An interesting object is to be observed in this room, being an illustrative comparison of the progress of pictorial art, shown by means of copies from four methods of treating similar subjects by the following schools in succession:—the ancient Egyptian, the early Byzantine, that of Cimabue, and, finally, of Raphael.

In the collection of oil paintings in the upper room are some works of first-class merit. An original of Ary Scheffer's, entitled Christ in the Garden, which is shortly to be engraved, arrests the first attention. It is only after considerable study that all the merits of this admirable work will be perceived; the ministration of the angel, who aids without undue interference; the fearful agony depicted by the suffering mouth and sweat of blood, yet sustained in tranquillity and resignation; the faint disk of glory; the admirable robing of the angel; -all these are points, one by one remarkable, the enumeration of which, however, fails to convey adequately the striking effect of the whole. It is long since our English school has produced a work of equal value, in the same high walk of art as that occupied by this gifted composer.

A large painting of the Port of Ostia, by the lamented artist Müller, in imitation of Claude, is to be seen here, and a valuable landscape of the first class, called Hampstead Heath, by the same. Next perhaps in interest comes a charming work by Poole, called a Romp in a Hay-field, one of the happiest selections and renderings of art, both in idea, composition, and texture, that can be conceived. A domestic scene, A Mother's Hope, by C. R. Leslie, is equal to him in every way, in the unrestrained but refined grace of the principal figures. Two heads by Etty are also amongst the collection; and a scene by Frith, from 'Barnaby Rudge,' entitled Miss Haredale and Dolly Varden, remarkable for the skilful treatment of the dresses. Maria, by Uwins, and Griselda, by D'Almaine, are two clever heads. T. Webster furnishes a subject in the Dutch style, called All Fours; and F. M. Brown has exhibited a bright bit of colour in his Wickliffe Reading to John of Gaunt, a small painting which unites many merits of composition, study of costume, and general feeling. In scenery, besides the painting by Müller, we have some sea-side pieces by Collins; boats by Knell; two effective paintings of stormy sea by Carmichael; a careful but somewhat scattered subject of cattle by Cooper; two rustic views, picturesquely arranged, by H. T. Boddington, called Rabbit Shooting, and Heath; and a Sketch in the Highlands, with figures, by A. Johnston. With this incomplete enumeration of this interesting collection we must bring our notice to a close. We are happy to be able to add that it bids fair to attract from the public that attention which it well deserves.

Views of the Gold Regions of Australia. Drawn on the spot by C. F. Angus. 1851. Published by

J. Hogarth. WHILST the advices from Australia are teeming with accounts of runaway clerks and deserted ships, and the columns of the 'Times' are filled with advertisements by enterprising Gold Mining Companies, it will be certainly from no lack of opportune publication that these sketches fail of attracting general attention. The most sanguine emigrants will be willing, at least, to look before they leap, and reconnoitre to some extent the nature of the ground they are about to traverse. But, independently of public interest, Mr. Angus's 'Views' well deserve inspection for their agreeable effects and well chosen composition. It would appear, however, that the countries here represented either do not present any great diversities to the more hilly parts of our own island, or that scape behind is perhaps too heavy. In flower pieces treatment founded on English scenery. We may is tolerably flexible, though very weak; a respect-

almost hope that the former is the true state of the case, and that the undulating hills and alluvial valleys, with occasional flanks of bare perpendicular rock here portrayed, are evidences of a region as temperate, and at least not less productive than that which the settlers have left behind them. The vignette on the title-page of the book is a very pretty and cleverly arranged scene, showing the method of gold washing, which is afterwards further illustrated in views of 'Summer Hill Creek,' 'Ophir Diggings,' and 'Lewis' Ponds,' names already famous in southern history. Objections, which can in nowise be taken to the drawing, composition, or effect of these plates, must perhaps be expressed as to the manner of their printing, which, arising from some want of skill, has occasioned a faintness and spottiness of tinting.

MUSIC.

Mr. Bunn began his opera season at Drury-Lane well on Saturday, with Meyerbeer's Robert le Diable-Anglicised, of course-with three new vocalists; a Miss Crichton as Isabella, Madame Evelina Garcia as Agnes, a M. Fedor as Robert, and Henry Drayton, of concert-room repute, as Raimbaud;—with a very effective orchestra, conducted by M. Schira, and a full and well-disciplined chorus. The opera was well put upon the stage, and went with great spirit and effect. Miss Crichton is an accomplished singer, with a splendid soprano, full and clear. Her vocalisation is excellent, and she abounds in tenderness and delicacy of expression. Her success was most unequivocal. M. Fedor is a skilful and tasteful artiste, with a high tenor, small but sweet,-too small and effeminate for such a masculine part as that of Robert. Mr. Henry Drayton both played and sang far better than any previous efforts of his were warrant for. Madame Evelina Garcia has more strength of voice than tenderness or refinement of style to recommend her; but is painstaking and dramatic. The house was crowded, Mr. Bunn called for, and the audience apparently delighted.

Fra Diarolo was revived at the same theatre on the following night, for the purpose of bringing forward Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves and Miss Priscilla Horton, in the respective parts of Fra Diavolo, Zerlina, and Lady Allcash. The opera, and its merits, are matters of history. Mr. Sims Reeves' version of the joyous bandit was new to us. He cannot sing ill in anything; but he has not physical stamina for much of the music of the part. Wherever tenderness was required, as, for example, in the well-known serenade, 'Young Agnes,' there he triumphed, and stood confessedly the first English singer we have; unapproached, as yet, for delicacy and pathos. 'Proudly and wide my standard flies' demands more manhood than Mr. Sims Reeves either can, or else cares to, throw into his singing. It is a thousand pities that he does not lay aside a languor which has the appearance of being assumed, under the mistaken idea that it is an elegance. Mrs. Reeves sang the music of Zerlina much as we should have expected from Miss Lucombe. She was much applauded. Miss P. Horton was received as became so established a favourite; her performance of Lady Allcash was a study. Mr. Whitworth is a good Lord Alleash.

The opera went off altogether very successfully. The adventurous Italian troupe of whom we made mention in our last have really commenced operations. They made, on Saturday last, what Benjamin Disraeli would call "a saucy and a gal-" with L'Elisir d'Amore; lant sally, more, came off with flying colours. In all seriousness, we recommend those who are content to see and hear a very pleasing opera very creditably performed, by a very painstaking company, well put upon the stage, well chorused, well conducted, and supported by an orchestra, small indeed, but well together, to go to the Soho THEATRE, and judge for themselves. They will find a prima donna, Madame Persico, with a very clear soprano of extensive register, occasionally faulty in intonation, but only occasionally; a tenore, Signor Agosti, whose voice

able mezzo basso in Signor Salaberti, and basso in Signor Ricci; the acting of the former atones for a voice that in itself is but indifferent. Madame Persico, whose deportment is very pleasing, was very favourably received, and deservedly encored in 'Ah fa con te verace;' as was Signor Agosti in 'Una furtiva lagrima.' The chorus received a similar honour in the first act, which was due in a great measure to Signor Agosti's 'Come sprezza il sorgente.' The men's voices are occasionally too loud; otherwise the training of the chorus is highly creditable. They have repeated the opera twice.

On Monday night, the long-announced opera Aminta, by Howard Glover, a son of the late actress, was brought out at the HAYMARKET, with the most unequivocal success. It is impossible to deny that it is an extremely pretty opera. Nothing can be simpler than the story, yet it is put together very effectively. Precisely the same thing may be said of the music. We look in vain for an original thought in either. The story is soon told. Aminta, a village coquette by profession, so tries the patience of her lover, Fernandez, that he joins a band of smugglers; of which piece of rashness both parties repent. An amorous Alcalde, Don Tenorio, also in love with Aminta, sees with delight the military on the smugglers' track, in the hope of being thus rid of his rival, Fernandez. Aminta tries to persuade Fernandez to return to her, but without success. The smugglers are captured. Aminta intercedes with their captain for her lover's life, is at first unsuccessful, but eventually wins the captain's favour, whose advances she nevertheless repulses. The Alcalde is instant for Fernandez' execution, when the inopportune arrival of several hampers of contraband wine for the Alcalde, discloses his own contraband propensities and connexion with the smugglers; and so, to save his own character and credit, he joins in recommending Fernandez to mercy, and resigns Aminta, who had previously consented to marry him if it would save her lover's life. On this slender thread Mr. Howard Glover has hung some very effective music, though he has not made anything like what he might of the situations; which were excellent for the purpose. There is a feeling akin to disappointment attendant on hearing nearly every piece, the solos especially; a strain commences, which should be a melody, but after a phrase or two, it is either broken up, or diverted, or alloyed, as if the writer were fearful of being thought common-place if he continued the original thread. There is an extremely beautiful quartett, however, in the first act, 'This blushing rose,' unaccompanied, which deserved well the encore it received, which was genuine and hearty. The quintett, 'Do not yet,' and the concluding movements of the finale to that act. 'Yes, hence to you mountains,' are very creditable to Mr. Glover as a musician. A very quaint and effective song, 'What a thing is love, very well sung by Mrs. Caulfield, who played the subordinate part of Paquita, received a double encore, and was even once again called for. It is very telling on the stage; and will, we have no doubt, have 'a run' off of it. An air by Fernandez, 'Golden sun,' has some claims to popular favour, but there is nothing distinctive about it, or about any of the airs; at least, nothing sufficiently so to have any hold upon the memory. The Spanish character of the whole is well maintained. There is a very clever concerted piece in Act II .. 'A man! a man!' which told well, and was excel-lently sung, especially by Mr. Weiss, who is the Alcalde of the piece, and who sang and acted throughout better than we have heard him for many a day. Miss Louisa Pyne as Aminta, and Harrison as Fernandez, sang each of them well; but there was nothing to try either very severely. A pretty finale, with a joyous movement, varied to exhibit Miss Pyne's facility of execution, was greatly applauded. There were several encores demanded, as is usual on a first night, with far more zeal than discretion. Miss Louisa Pyne, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. Harrison were called for at the end of the first act; what for, is best known to the callers. We strongly urge upon singers in general to discourage these cheap triumphs; they militate

seriously against the attainment of higher ones. Once, at the close of a piece, is sufficient in any case; and then the compliment, to make it other than a mockery, should at least be deserved. The three principals and Mr. Glover were called for, and appeared when the curtain fell. The scenery is beautiful; the getting-up worthy of Mr. Webster. The house was crammed, and the opera announced for three times a week, amid a perfect whirlwind of

applause. MR. AGUILAR'S SECOND SOIREE, on Tuesday last, was on precisely the same scale as the one previous, three of Beethoven's sonatas, two bagatelles, andante and scherzo, also from the works of the same composer, and two songs—Miss Messent supplying the place of Miss Ursula Barclay, scarcely for the better. Miss Messent's voice requires more space than these rooms afford to develope its good qualities or conceal its defects. She was encored in one-a song of Curschman's, for which, nevertheless, her voice is too heavy. Mr. Aguilar was not heard quite to his usual advantage in the Sonata pathétique. The Adagio cantabile went rather heavily, and the Rondo, by being taken a trifle too slow, did not redeem the previous defect. He, however, amply made amends by the truly masterly manner in which he gave the Sonata Op. 29, No. 1: it was superbly played. Herr Jansa, the violinist, who accompanied Op. 12, No. 2, appeared to much greater advantage than on the previous occasion; there was more life, as well as certainty, in his

playing. The room was crowded. Last Thursday's EXETER HALL CONCERT was distinguished from its predecessors by, for one thing, the absence of the Life Guards' band. Why this was, the public were not informed; and next, by the appearance of Miss Alleyne, who made a very favourable impression, and was most warmly encored in 'Bid me discourse.' Her voice, which is very round and sweet in quality, easily filled the Hall. She is a little too impulsive, but experience will correct it. She has all the materials for an excellent singer. Her shake is remarkably close, true, and liquid; and she is unusually articulate, every word reaching the ear-a rare merit. Miss Dolby was heartily welcomed, and encored in her two songs. The latter, 'Il Segreto,' is not exactly the song for her. Miss Pyne sang a very sweet air of Stephen Glover's, 'Speak, oh speak to her in kindness,' very sweetly. The words of it are extremely good. Miss Goddard received her usual greeting, and was vehemently encored in both her solos. One of them well deserved it, Thalberg's Fantasia from Masaniello. The other, Weber's Invitation à la Valse,' was played by her much too fast, and the wild dreamy sentiment which is its distinguishing characteristic, was, in consequence, entirely lost. Miss Goddard will forgive our suggesting to her, that she will do well not to trust all to strength of finger. She has it in perfection; but in the niceties of expression and refinement she has much to acquire. Mr. Swift continues to maintain

his high position. The Birmingham Triennial Musical Festival is to be held in the second week of September, under the presidency of Lord Leigh. Mr. Costa will preside as conductor.

There are but two novelties to be mentioned in Paris: one is the reproduction of Guillaume Tell at the Grand Opera. Gueymard was the renowned Swiss, and though not to be compared to Duprez in the same part, acquitted himself very creditably indeed. The opera was, on the whole, admirably executed, and the choruses were very grand. It expected that this great work, whi been represented for a long time, will have a renewed run. It has always-as indeed it deserves to be-been a great favourite with the Parisians. The second novelty is the production of Nabuchodonosor, at the Italian theatre, with Mdlle. Cruvelli as the heroine. She sang and acted in a manner that excited universal admiration.

In virtue of his arbitrary power, the Dictator of France has been pleased to grant a sum of 600,000 francs (24,000l.) to the management of the Grand Opera, to be employed in paying off its debts. The

money is to be supplied in ten yearly instalments and of course is to come out of the public treasury, The people connected with the theatre are over. flowing with gratitude to the Dictator, and the musical circles generally are disposed to laud his liberality. But whether the poor tax payers will be equally pleased is a different matter. In addi. tion to the money, the Dictator has granted a prolongation of the 'privilege' for ten years to the present director, M. Roqueplan, a very intelligent and enterprising man. The annual subvention allowed him is to continue to be 24,800l. sterling.

Mr. Lumley, director of the Italiens, has, we perceive, been at law with M. Bayard, one of the authors of the libretto of the Fille du Régiment, respecting the performance of that opera at his theatre. M. Bayard demanded payment of the usual droits d'auteur for each representation; Mr. Lumley refused them on the ground that it was not usual to pay at the Italiens for a libretto, also that the piece performed was not that of Bayard, but a translation of it into Italian. Judgment was, however, given against Lumley. Donizetti's heirs also brought an action against Mr. Lumley for having used the music of the Fille du Régiment without their consent; and in this also he was beaten.

PIANOFORTE MUSIC.

Moonlight. Nocturne. By Szekeley. Leader and Cock.

Falling Stars. Capriccio. By Szekeley. Leader and Cock.

THE first of these clever descriptive pieces requires a good player to give effect to the subject, from the abundance of florid but extremely graceful ormement with which it is worked up. It will well repay the learning.

The latter is very different, but not inferior, in point of character or merit. It is in six sharps, and is very brilliant and effective.

Gems of Meyerbeer. By W. Chalmers Masters. Leader and Cock.

ADMIRABLE studies, arranged with musician-like

L'Allegrezzia. Caprice. By W. Chalmers Masters.

Leader and Cock. EXCELLENT for the acquirement of ease in the

execution of arpeggii with either hand. Freundschaft und Liebe. Valses. Adolph Mars chan. Leader and Cock.

As graceful as they are simple and easy.

to Beethoven.

The Classical Pianist's Recreation. A Selection of Slow Movements and Scherzi, from the Sonatas of Beethoven, Mozart, Weber, Hummel, &c. dt. Edited by Chas. Salaman. R. W. Ollivier and Co. A VALUABLE addition to the stock of sterling piano forte music; well selected and well arranged, as is as the numbers have yet gone, which are confined

VOCAL MUSIC.

The Silent Land. Words from Longfellow; must by Frank Romer. Leader and Cock.

The Castle by the Sea. Words from Longfellow, music by Frank Romer. Leader and Cock. Gaily I'd Roam. Sung by Miss Birch. Music by

Frank Romer. Leader and Cock. THESE three songs are very much above the usus average. The first is in character very similar, and in point of merit fully equal, to most of Schuber! occasionally reminding us of Beethoven's 'Ad laide.' The two latter are full of melody; the last of them is a dashing cavatina, with a change d key and time that tell very effectively. The word will not bear analysing too closely, but they sig

Go, Bird of Summer. By Walter Maynard.

Leader and Cock. WORDS and music well suited-a very pleasing ballad—easy and unpretending.

Make me thine Own. Sacred Song. By Henry

Smart. Leader and Cock. THE production of a thorough sacred musician, racteristic throughout, and well suited to a tool asury.

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The Letanie of the Holy Spirit. Words by Herrick. Composed by J. L. Hatton. R. Addison and Co. ONE of the cleverest sacred songs we know; in the highest degree devotional in character, and masterly in treatment.

Never Again! By Charles W. Glover.

T. Chappell and Co.

ONE of those pure and glowing melodies for which Mr. Glover is so deservedly distinguished. The words are sufficiently graceful.

Sweet Love, Arise. By Henrion. Jullien and Co. A CLEAR ringing serenade, in the Spanish style. The words are a free translation from the French. Both the above are sure to be favourites.

THE DRAMA.

On Wednesday night the walls of DRURY LANE witnessed in Miss Helen Faucit's Juliet an impersonation worthy of its best days. moment of her entrance as the unheeding girl, in whom the strong elements of passion have smouldered unknown to herself and others-the bud ready to expand, -until she lies there, the crushed and blasted flower, upon the body of her dead lord, the audience were carried along through all the phases of her crowded passionate life, with a sympathy as irresistible as if it were not a creation of the poet's brain, but a living creature that suffered before them. Never did poet dream "the perfect vision of a maiden's love" more purely than it was presented in the balcony scene—that sweet mixture of bashfulness, and frank guileless devotion—that lingering over the serene depth of feelings which have surprised her with their strange unmeasurable sweetness. Not less exquisite in its depth of tragic pathos was the parting at the same balcony with Romeo at the close of that saddest of bridal nights, which stands in such touching contrast with the perfect joy of their first meeting. In this scene we seem to hear the knell of the two lovers, and all its agonizing tenderness is developed by Miss Faucit with that calm power, so true to life, which forms a leading feature of her How fine, again, the passage where the nurse, the one sole being in whom she hoped for sympathy, counsels her to marry Paris. The gathering up of the soul within itself, the mental severing from all extraneous counsellors, expressed in the rigid muscles and darkening shadows of the face, lent a terrible significance to the words—

Thou and my bosom henceforth shall be twain."

And when she is left to 'act her dismal scene alone,' and the horrors to be encountered in her kinsmen's vault rise up, for the first time, vividly before her eyes, that great power of imagination, which seems to us to be the key to Miss Faucit's excellence, is communicated by the actress's energy to the audience, and, like her, their hearts are borne down under the oppression of these images of dread. The difficulty of Miss Faucit's task was much increased by the very indifferent manner in which the greater number of the other parts was supported. This may be no fault of the management, for it is easier to feel the want of good actors than to find them. The hearty appreciation of a wellfilled house was shown by earnest attention throughout, and by the enthusiasm of their call at the close of the play. We hope to see the houses crowded during Miss Faucit's brief engagement. Her performances are a lesson of what the drama is capable of being made.

The pantomimes and burlesques are still in the ascendant, though probably a week or two more will see them giving way to the 'novelties,' which are rumoured to be 'in active preparati Princess's King John is to be produced with all the splendour and elaboration in which that theatre delights; and at Sadler's Wells the worthy inheritor of Macready's principles of management, Mr. Phelps, is to produce Henry V., we presume in the style which created the 'sensation' at Covent Garden. At the Princess's Bourcicault's version of Les Frères Corses, and Douglas Jerrold's Heart of Gold, are both said to be 'ready,' but

a new one-act comedy for the début of Miss Laura Keene, who wisely abandons the heroines of Shakspere, though we must suppose that while the crowds continue to fill that theatre no débutante can appear to displace the present attractive pieces. At the Olympic, Mr. Morton is said to have a new drama in preparation, to replace, it may be hoped, the singularly weak imitation of Secret Service, now performing under the title of A Conspirator in Spite of Himself, the whole of which turns upon Inkhorn, an aged copyist, being intrusted with some important papers by the Jacobite leaders to copy, he being supposed a safe person because he is ignorant of French; but an English letter being accidentally left among the French documents, he discovers the plot and reveals it to the government, which brings the hero into what the Americans call a 'fix,' from which he is rescued in a manner as probable as the rest of the piece. It is a poor affair, and its production was a mistake. The pantomime at this house is, however, excellent, and makes up abundantly for any deficiency in the dramas.

The superintendence of the Paris theatres, and the censorship on plays, have just been taken out of the hands of the Minister of the Interior, and confided to a new cabinet minister, called the Minister of General Police. It is said to be the intention of the existing government to extend a special protection to the drama. The President of the Republic will, it is asserted, take a box at every theatre; and, what is more, intends to require all public functionaries of the higher rank, in the provinces as well as in Paris, to follow his example. The advantage this would be to the theatres would be immense; in the provinces, especially, it would make them prosperous, instead of, as at present, ruinous speculations both to managers and actors. The Théâtre Français has already received a marked proof of the Dictator's favour:—he has ordered that it shall have the salle rent free—a concession equal to an addition to its annual grant of 50,000f. (2000l.) The salle, it is known, is part of the Palais Royal, and, as such, the property of the Orleans family. If the confiscation of their estates be not maintained, the rent will have to be paid by the public treasury.

At the Theatre Français, a little comedy, called Le pour et le contre, has been brought out. It has been adapted, or, to speak plainly, stolen from a proverbe, published some time ago in the 'Revue des Deux Mondes,' but has been spoiled by the adapters. At the Gaité, Auguste Maquet, the well-known collaborateur of Alexandre Dumas, has produced a five-act melodrama, called Le Château de Grantier. It is of more literary merit than most of the pieces of the Boulevard theatres.

Mr. G. Herbert Rodwell, a much respected member of the dramatic and musical profession, died on the 22nd instant, at the age of fifty-two. He evinced an early taste for music, and was taught the pianoforte, as a youth, by Mr. G. Madison of Knightsbridge. He was then articled to Sir Henry Bishop for three years, and subsequently became Professor of Harmony in the Royal Academy of Music. He was a member of the Royal Society of Musicians, and had the honour of being selected for the first music-master of Her Majesty, when residing, as Princess Victoria, with her mother at Kensington Palace. He composed several pretty songs, but made no great progress in first-class music. He worked most assiduously for the theatres, and in composing and adapting music burlesques, and pantom neiogramas, life has been chiefly occupied. He wrote the music to several of the pieces in which Mr. John Reeve acquired his celebrity at the Adelphi Theatre-Tom and Jerry, Trifles Light as Air, or Bachelors' Torments, Fun and Fight, The Young Widow, More Blunders than One, The Bottle Imp, &c. Mr. Rodwell was also a successful author. He wrote the popular farce of Teddy the Tiler, in which the make no sign of appearing. The Lyceum prepares the piece of My Father did so before Me, for the introduction of Mr. John Reeve the younger, at the Lyceum. Mr. Rodwell's contributions to literature consisted of a story that was published in numbers, called 'Memoirs of an Umbrella, 'Woman's Love,' 'Old London Bridge,' &c. He married an only daughter of the celebrated Liston; but her inconstancy proved a source of great grief and pain to him.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, Jan. 28th.

THE treaty for the protection of literary and artistic property recently concluded between England and France, has just been formally promulgated by the French government, and has now, consequently, full force of law in this country. On referring to it, I find that your correspondent W.S. is in error in supposing that it does not require to be submitted to the English Parliament, as Article XIV. says expressly, "Her British Majesty engages to recommend to the Parliament to adopt a law which shall authorize her to carry into effect such clauses of the present convention as require to be sanctioned by a legislative act. When such a law shall have been adopted, the convention shall be brought into execution from a day to be fixed by the two contracting parties." But still your correspondent is not altogether wrong; for, by an additional article agreed to between our ambassador and the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, when the ratifications were exchanged about a fortnight ago, but only just made public, it is enacted that, "Notwithstanding the terms of Article XIV, stipulating that the convention shall only come into execution from the day on which certain of its clauses shall have been validated by the Parliament of Great Britain, it has been agreed, by common accord, that such of its clauses as do not require to be submitted to the Parliament, and which the present state of legislation authorizes the British crown to validate, shall have, at the earliest period possible, their full and entire effect, both on one part and the other." Consequently, it is to be expected that, if it has not already done so, the English government will, in the course of a very few days, notify what portions of the treaty are already obligatory; and the rest will no doubt be sanctioned by Parliament without any delay.

All the important clauses of the treaty, literally translated, were published in your columns on the 22nd November last. It behoves all English publishers, and especially those who bring out translations, to weigh them well, if they be anxious to avoid actions for penalties. The French publishers are determined to spare neither pains nor expense to extirpate the system of literary piracy, from which they suffer so grievously; and they will, your readers may be assured, sternly insist on the rigorous execution of the treaty to the minutest particular. They have already formed a commission of their body, charged to get proofs of piracy, and to prosecute offenders; and this commission has special agents in every large town of every country with which literary treatics have been entered into. The vigilance of these gentlemen is extraordinarily great, and it will be very imprudent to run the risk of attempting to baffle it. Only a few weeks ago, the agent at Turin, sharper than the local police, discovered that one of the principal booksellers had pirated books in his possession; he immediately, relying on the treaty, compelled the police to destroy the entire stock, and to inflict heavy fines on the unfortunate tradesman. And you may be sure that the same activity and vigour will be displayed at London. The Frenchmen are resolved to "have their bond."

It may not, perhaps, be considered improper if I venture to express a hope that the London "trade" will heartily co-operate with their French brethren in carrying out the provisions of the new treaty. It would be a graceful way of acknowledging the obligations they are under to the French. It is, it should be remembered, almost exclusively to the dogged energy of the French publishers that the treaty is owing. If they had not tormented the government and the Assembly,

month after month, for the last three years, it is tolerably certain that it would still be a desideratum; so lukewarm and indifferent did the English appear about it. And let it be borne in mind that there was a great deal of true chivalrous generosity in this, for the French have nothing like the same interest in crushing piracy in England as the English have in crushing it in France.

The positive pecuniary advantage which English authors and publishers will derive from the new treaty must be very considerable; at the very least, I should say, several thousands a year, though to be sure of late,—what with the competition of pirated imports from America, and what with the prohibition to sell piracies in the greater part of Germany, the reprinting trade has been nothing like what it was fifteen or twenty years ago. Be, however, the gain great or small, it will be acceptable; and all persons, whether pecuniarily interested or not, must rejoice at seeing an end put to a great moral wrong and social nuisance. It now only remains for the English to succeed in getting a treaty with the United States, and the French one with Belgium, to cause literary piracy to be entirely annihilated.

The new treaty, it may be remembered, forbids, amongst other things, the reproduction, under certain circumstances, of articles from periodicals and newspapers. But on the occasion of the ratification an article was added, declaring that the prohibition shall not extend to articles of political discussion in the latter.

The literary convention recently concluded between France and Hanover has just been officially promulgated, and, like that with England, has become law. France has now treaties with Sardinia, Portugal, Great Britain, Hanover, and some of the German States, and will soon have them with Spain, Holland, Prussia, and it is hoped Belgium. The reason of entering into conventions with powers in whose territory piracy is not carried on, is to prevent the introduction of piracies from other countries. France has thus struck a heavy blow at the Belgians, by closing several of their foreign markets. So, the English treaty not only puts down direct piracy of English works in France, but prohibits the introduction of any illegal reprints whatsoever: an interdiction which will be felt to some extent by the American pirates, who of late years have made France a débouché.

In accordance with its much vaunted reputation of being the capital of letters as well as of art, Paris, in addition to numerous and vast public libraries, generously thrown open to every comer, foreign as well as native, contained innumerable collections of rare and curious works, the property of private individuals. Book-collecting, indeed, was a perfect passion among the rich and the noble, -and not a few people who were neither. These worthy men gloried in "small old volumes, dark with tarnished gold," and would, if they had had it, have given a king's ransom for an Elzevir or an Estienne. But of late, from death, revolutionary commotion, or other causes, sad havoc has been made amongst these treasured collections. For a long time past, there has been scarcely a week without one or more being brought to the hammer, and scattered far and wide; and more are being announced almost every day. Although, however, so frequent, the sales always attract crowds of amateurs and literary men, and sometimes vast prices are realized at them, whilst not rarely the keenest competition takes place for particular works. One of the most recent sales, which has excited general attention, was that of the collection of the late Marshal Sebastiani. Something like indignation was manifested at finding that not a few of the books containing writing of the murdered Duchess de Praslin, the Marshal's daughter, were publicly offered,-let us hope, unknown to the family. Amongst the sales which are coming is one which excites intense interest, that of King Louis Philippe's private libraries. His late Majesty was not much of a book fancier, but he possessed rare works and manuscripts of great value, inherited from his ancestors.

The government is causing the report to be

spread in the literary circles that it intends shortly to do great things for authors and literature. But the former naturally doubt its good will to them, seeing that it has exiled the most distinguished of their body, and silenced the rest: and as to the latter, it cannot be compelled to flourish by a decree. One of the promises made is, that the extra tax on feuilletons shall be taken off; but this would be a small concession now that the greater part of the newspapers are suppressed or dead, and that the others are in a ricketty state. Another scheme which is talked of is to add a literary department, on an extensive scale, to the official 'Moniteur,' and to employ authors at good salaries to write for it-the expense to be covered by compelling all the municipal councils and public functionaries to subscribe to the paper. But authors don't appear much to like the notion of having their fellowcitizens condemned by force to purchase their lucubrations,-still less do they approve of the idea of being themselves constrained to write, not as they feel, but as the government might dictate.

VARIETIES.

Silent chartæ inter armæ.-It is curious to note the phases of journalism under the new military regime in France. Of the political results it is not for us to speak, but the state of the French press at the present moment is a fact worth recording in the history of literature. For some time after the coup d'état of the 2nd December, absolute silence was imposed on all papers but those which would echo the sentiments of the executive. Many of the journals, especially those whose existence dates since the Revolution of 1848, have for ever ceased to speak. Others, one by one, have broken silence, but under such censorship as to make the liberty of the French press a tradition of past times. One paragraph of the leading article of 'La Presse,' of December 29th, we extract, as worthy of a place in some new 'Consolations of Philosophy.' After stating that political discussion will be eschewed,-Il restera de nombreuses questions de finances, d'impôts, de travaux publics, de commerce, d'industrie, de marine, de douanes, de politique internationale, de réforme administratif, d'instruction publique, et de bien-être populaire-sur lesquelles a discussion demeurera libre.' Was there ever such an illustration of the part of Hamlet omitted! Yet how ingenious the remark which follows:-'Des études fécondes et variées occuperont la place qu'ont laissée vide des débats trop souvent stériles.' M. Girardin is the Boethius of journalism. The last 'Charivari' of the year is also under the influence of this 'age of lead.' Its picture is a dragoon leading a young female, a personification of the city of Paris, to M. Musard, the 'directeur des bals de l'opéra,' and saying 'M. Musard, j'ai l'honneur de vous presenter une perletterpress is supremely stupid, the chief article being in ridicule of the mutations of 'La Presse,' which it seems has changed and rechanged repeatedly its editor and its time of publication, within a few days. In laughing at the journal of that name, 'The Charivari' left on record, at the close of the year, a bitter satire on the state of the liberty of the press in general in France.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Letter H Enigma.

January 23rd. The reviewer of Miss Mitford's 'Recollections,' in your Journal of the 17th inst., is disposed to question her accuracy in assigning to Miss Catherine Fanshawe the well-known enigma on the letter H, commencing—

"Twas whispered in Heaven, 'twas muttered in Hell, An echo caught faintly the sound as it fell.'

Although commonly attributed to Byron, the lady is right. It was first printed by Miss Baillie in a collection of original poetry, published by her for the benefit of a friend. The signature is F, which is shown to stand for Fanshawe by another piece, under the same signature, addressed to Lord Harcourt, who wished her to spell Catherine with a K.

SUUM CUIQUE. We cannot insert "A Student's" letter on Mesmerism

and Magic without opening the door to a discuss on which would be the reverse of a scientific one. It has been submitted, at the writer's wish, to the reviewer of Mr. Colquhoun's book.

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